

JPRS-SEA-90-033
11 DECEMBER 1990



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JPRS Report

East Asia

Southeast Asia

19990510 185

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE
SPRINGFIELD, VA. 22161

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 4

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A
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East Asia Southeast Asia

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Fishery Joint Venture Agreement Signed

91SE0042C Rangoon *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY* in English 31 Oct 90 p 7

[Text] Yangon, 30 October—Sea Fishers Overseas Limited of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Myanma [Burma] Fisheries Enterprise signed an agreement at 2 p.m. today in the conference room of Myanma Fisheries Enterprise, for formation of a Joint Venture Company by the name of "Myanmar Sea Fishers Joint Venture Enterprise Limited." The agreement was signed by managing directors from both parties.

This company would carry out prawn fishing operation in the area near Kyaukpyu where it has a fishing base. The company would process the products at Kyaukpyu cold store and export them from there.

Prior to approval for formation of this company, it has been engaged in fishing operation for 3 months and as a result has exported over U.S. 0.2 million dollars worth of finished products to Japan.

Present at the signing ceremony were the ambassador from the embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, managing director from Sea Fishers Overseas Ltd of Bangladesh, responsible officials from the Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries, the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Attorney General Office.

Mines, Energy Minister Addresses Mining Enterprise

91SE0042B Rangoon *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY* in English 27 Oct 90 pp 1, 6

[Text] Yangon, 26 October—The biannual work coordination meeting of the No 3 Mining Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines for 1990-91 fiscal year was held at the No 3 Mining Enterprise this morning and Minister for Energy and for Mines Vice-Admiral Maung Maung Khin delivered an address at the meeting.

Present were Director-General of the Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department U Thaug, the officer on special duty at the Ministry of Mines, the directors-general and directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Mines, the head of office and the general managers and managers of factories and mines under the No 3 Mining Enterprise, among others.

Minister Vice-Admiral Maung Maung Khin, in his address said, "Responsible personnel of factories and mines who are present at the meeting are to present matters in a free and frank manner.

"Those from the Head Office are to discuss frankly and coordinate measures and fulfill the requirements."

He said "The mining sector is one of the most important sectors of the State's economy. There are eight departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Mines. They are responsible for producing the State's natural

resources and earning foreign exchange for the country. As for the No 3 Mining Enterprise, it does not earn foreign exchange but has to extract minerals to be supplied to the industries in sufficient quantity. Thus, a lot of foreign exchange is saved. There is a need to expand the work of this enterprise. Efforts must be made to step up production of mineral recourse both qualitatively and quantitatively."

The minister also said, "The No 3 Mining Enterprise must constantly carry out experiments to produce other mineral resources required by the industries. It must also step up the production of iron and steel required for domestic use. The production of coal, which is used in generating electric power, should be increased much more than the present production situation. The production of chromite, antimony and nickel which fetch foreign exchange should also be increased. Arrangements should also be made to produce aluminum and other minerals which have not been extracted in the country. The extraction of coal in the border regions under joint venture with foreign companies should also be extended. The production of barites which are useful in oil exploration work, should be expanded and this would not only be useful in oil exploration but also highly beneficial to the country."

Next Managing Director of the No 3 Mining Enterprise U Myint Thein delivered an address.

Those in charge of township production stations, mining camps and factories, gave a review of the production during the first 6 months of 1990-91 and presented reports and the targets of production during the second 6-month period. Reports were also presented by deputy directors. The first day of the meeting was then adjourned. the meeting will continue on 27 October.

Decrease in Rice Price, Incentives for Peasants

91SE0042A Rangoon *THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY* in English 31 Oct 90 pp 1, 6

[Excerpt] Yangon, 30 October—"Trade cooperatives and joint venture corporation No 2 are not to rush for purchasing paddy by vying one another because it can cause price hike.

"You cannot force the peasants to sell their paddy, and you cannot prescribe the number of baskets which a farmer must sell or per acre amount to be sold. And paddy is to be purchased not at a fixed price but at prevailing price."

These are the policies laid down by the State Law and Order Restoration Council as disclosed by Secretary-2 Major-General Tin Oo when he met with members of the committee for bringing down prices of commodities, high-ranking officials from Trade Department, Myanma [Burma] Agricultural Produce Trading, General Merchandised Trading and Cooperatives Department and JVC [expansion unknown] no 2 chairman.

A meeting at which matters relating to bringing down prices of commodities and buying paddy were discussed was held at the Trade Department today.

Prominent among those present were Brigadier-General Abel, minister for planning and finance and for trade; Brigadier-General Maung Maung, chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Correct Flow of Commodities and Bringing Down Commodity Prices; Commodore Sein Lwin, the secretary of the committee and deputy commanders of military commands and divisions.

Secretary-2 Maj-Gen Tin Oo said that the government on its part had already declared that it would extend help for the development of cooperatives and private enterprises. He continued: "Free trade of rice has already been allowed within the country but wholesalers are to get themselves registered with the departments concerned. Trade, cooperatives and JVC No 2 are to take care so that the market might not be upset. Trade is to buy rice for service personnel and for reserved quota while the cooperatives are to purchase rice for their consumers. And the JVC is to take responsibility for supply of rice to consumers of regions where rice supply is not adequate."

Maj-Gen Tin Oo went on to say that the State organizations were to buy at a price which would be of benefit to the farmers and which would not be too high a price for the consumers.

Those responsible to render supervision are to get at the root so that the State's policies may be abided by, said the Secretary-2.

He said that another point he would like to make was that free trade of rice within the country was not to be prohibited but illegal export of rice was to be interdicted.

Then Minister Brig-Gen Abel delivered a speech. He said about 6,529 lakhs of baskets of paddy were expected to yield for the current fiscal. Arrangements are necessary to be made for enjoining peasants to continue to grow paddy, said the minister.

Minister Brig-Gen Abel further said: "We assume that this year paddy price should be between K 4,500 and K 5,000 for 100 baskets. The rice price can fall to K 7, or K 8 or K 8.50 per pyi this year. But there are some avaricious rice traders engaging in illegal export of rice. I therefore want to urge traders to exercise the right to free trade with restraint and within the bounds of law."

He then explained some salient points regarding trading and financial systems.

Afterwards, Brig-Gen Maung Maung explained in detail the arrangements made for ensuring correct flow of commodities, what the states and divisions should do, stabilization of commodity prices and arrangements made for purchase of paddy. [passage omitted]

COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

DK 405th Division Logistics Chief Wounded

91SE0034B Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
27 Oct 90 p 2

[Excerpts] Aranyaprathet (AFP)—Nearly 3,000 women and children living with Khmer Rouge guerrillas inside Cambodia have crossed the border near here into Thailand to avoid heavy flooding, Thai border police said yesterday. [passage omitted]

Khmer Rouge 405 Division around the guerrillas' stronghold at Phnom Malai, are reported to be making their way to Hill 93 inside Cambodia near Phnom Ang Bon.

A Khmer Rouge officer lost his left leg, his 4-year-old son lost both eyes and his 5-year-old daughter was seriously injured in a land mine explosion on Thursday while evacuating towards the Thai border, a border source said yesterday.

Carrying his son and daughter, Mitr Nee, 40, chief of logistics of the 405 Division, stepped on a land mine. [passage omitted]

DK Troops, Families Flee; Impact on Operations

91SE0034D Bangkok THE NATION in English
27 Oct 90 p A3

[Excerpts] Nearly 3,000 women and children living with Khmer Rouge guerrillas inside Cambodia have crossed the border near here into Thailand to avoid heavy flooding, Thai border police said yesterday.

The families were first spotted crossing the border on Wednesday and they told how heavy flooding, with water in some places reaching shoulder-high, had washed away some of the camp sites in Cambodia.

The families, believed to be with the Khmer Rouge 405 Division around the guerrillas' stronghold at Phnom Malai, are reported to be making their way to Hill 93 inside Cambodia near Phnom Ang Bon.

The Phnom Malai area is some 40 kilometres (35 miles) southwest of here, just across from the Thai border. It is close to a large Khmer Rouge-controlled camp known as Site-8 on the Thai side.

The heavy flooding has swept water down the hills and washed away at least one supply route on the Thai side of the border, frequently used by the Marxist Khmer Rouge, the strongest guerrilla faction fighting Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government.

A 1.2 metre (4 foot) section of the dirt-track road, only 500 metres (yards) from the border was completely washed away on Thursday night. A makeshift bridge of branches has been built by local farmers but it is only wide enough to take pedestrians and bicycles.

The Khmer Rouge families moving towards Hill 93 are believed to be part of the estimated 60,000 who had moved out of secret Khmer Rouge camps in Thailand to go back into Cambodia with the guerrillas earlier this year. [passage omitted]

The latest rains have hampered the movement of the 2,000 odd Khmer Rouge troops in the Phnom Malai area, making it a nightmare to move positions, according to the Thai sources.

It has been an especially wet rainy season this year and guerrilla sources said outbreaks of malaria this season have risen dramatically.

"Normally we allow for about 20 percent of our men to get malaria. This year the figure is around 60 percent," said one guerrilla source. [passage omitted]

Khmer Rouge Desertions, Losses Reported

91SE0034A Bangkok THE NATION in English
16 Oct 90 p A5

[Text] Hundreds of Khmer Rouge guerrillas fighting off government forces in a malaria-ridden, mine-strewn corner of Cambodia are deserting the front line, relief officials and guerrillas said yesterday.

They said soldiers from the Khmer Rouge army, the strongest of three groups waging an 11-year-old war against Phnom Penh, had in the last few weeks fled heavy fighting to a UN-assisted refugee camp across the Thai border.

"We have never seen such a quantity of able-bodied males in that camp," one refugee official said.

Relief workers had no exact figures for the number of guerrillas fleeing the government siege on Pailin, a gem-rich town 10 km from the Thai border held by the Khmer Rouge for the past year.

The heavily defended town, garrisoned by two Khmer Rouge divisions, has been under attack by troops of the Hun Sen Government since late September. Guerrilla officials allied to the Khmer Rouge said both sides had lost many soldiers in the fighting.

"The Khmer Rouge will never let Pailin go. It is their most vital area," one said.

Guerrilla officials and relief workers and usually very few Khmer Rouge guerrillas fled their posts for fear of execution.

The secretive communist organisation, which oversaw the deaths of one million Cambodians during its 1975-78 rule, is led by hard-core cadres but its ranks are filled mainly by conscripts from refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Civilian defectors and camp officials said there was also a growing fatigue towards the war which has dragged on

since Vietnam's 1979 invasion and has worsened since the withdrawal of Hanoi's troops last year.

Relief officials said hundreds of deserting guerrillas had fled to Site K, a United Nations-assisted camp about 70 km north of the Thai town of Trat controlled by the Khmer Rouge.

Relief workers said only three agencies were allowed access in the daytime. At night hardline Khmer Rouge cadres ran the camp. Heavy rains had further limited access, they said.

"What we are really afraid of is that the Khmer Rouge will force these men back," a senior refugee official said. "So far they have not tried."

Some refugee officials said they were confident the UN's Border Relief Operation which assists the camp could prevent any forced exodus.

Many of the fleeing soldiers had sought shelter in the non-communist camp of Sok Sann a few kilometers away but had been turned away by commanders anxious not to upset their Khmer Rouge allies.

"Sometimes we give them rice and let them stay for a few days, then we ask them to go somewhere else," said an official of the non-communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) which controls the 9,000 inmates of the camp.

Pailin's logs and gems have been a major source of income for the Khmer Rouge. But guerrillas and diplomats said the faction had this month paid a heavy price in defending the town from weeks of heavy artillery and rocket bombardment. Malaria and mines had also taken their toll.

"The Khmer Rouge are having big problems keeping their ranks full right now. They aren't short of equipment but they're short of people to use it," the refugee official said.

Earlier this year the Khmer Rouge moved at least 4,000 Cambodians from a UN-assisted camp under their control across minefields into the region around Pailin.

Black Market Profits, Role in Resistance Economy

91SE0034C Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
28 Oct 90 p A4

[Text] Far off the beaten track, protected by four Thai army checkpoints, lies a thriving blackmarket that has become part of a 2 million baht (\$80,000) a day trading area on Thailand's border with Cambodia.

A volley of shots from the Cambodian side of the border by Phnom Penh troops signals their permission for the opening of Koksabang market, a kilometre (half mile) away along a narrow track through the half-cleared jungle on the Thai side.

A small fleet of trucks begins unloading cigarettes, trinkets, woven baskets, and silk while the stall owners begin stocking up the tables that stand around the hacked-out clearing.

A group of one-time farmers, who now make more money bringing in the contraband from Cambodia, appear out of the bushes with more of the same.

While peace plans to end the 12-year-long war in Cambodia move slowly in fits and starts, the blackmarketeers run along unchecked, reaping vast fortunes on everything from American cigarettes to Czechoslovakian hats.

The Thai mini-godfathers stay in business by making sure everyone who had to be paid-off is—and is satisfied with the deal.

But every so often the guerrilla groups, led by the Khmer Rouge, and the Cambodian government, who share control over the supply of goods to the markets, find themselves in a war that has little to do with ideology but rather with making sure the law of the business jungle is kept.

Early this month the Khmer Rouge lobbed several shells into the deserted Koksabang blackmarket camp, whose supply lines are under the control of Phnom Penh troops, wrecking a few makeshift huts and scaring some chickens who call the open-walled bamboo huts home.

"They were not trying to kill anyone. They attacked when they knew the site would be deserted. It was their way of passing the message along that too many people were shopping at Koksabang," explained a senior Thai official.

The Khmer Rouge "shopping centre" to the south had all but become deserted when it was badly flooded last month, sending the camps' regular clients into the welcoming arms of the Koksabang traders.

"But when the floods subsided it was back to business as usual and while most businessmen advertise in the newspapers or television the Khmer Rouge sent what could perhaps be called a direct mail shot. A couple of shells. It was a message telling everyone they were open for business," the official explained.

It worked. The some 1,000 shoppers from Bangkok who make the 3 hour journey every weekend to the blackmarkets where a carton of American cigarettes sells for 175 baht (7 dollars) instead of 325 baht (\$13) in the capital have returned to the Khmer Rouge shops.

But business is tough as the groups fight for trade.

Guerrillas of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), a non-communist group allied to the Khmer Rouge, run a bustling market 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of Koksabang but have plans to expand, creating a supermarket style black market complex.

A KPNLF commander, taking time out this week at the site at Nongeman from the continuing fighting across the border, admitted a new site at Nongsamet, just inside Cambodia, and easily reachable by a newly constructed 12 million baht (\$480,000) road, would soon take over from Nongeman.

Although the Thai area along the border is under the country's military command, Thai border officials admit privately that there is a tacit agreement to let the blackmarket business continue.

"The people living along the border on both sides, have had their normal living destroyed by the war. This way they can survive, selling smuggled goods. It might be illegal but it has its benefits. It allows them to live," said one government official.

STATE OF CAMBODIA

Editors Comment on Press Role

91SE0033A Bangkok THE NATION in English
19 Oct 90 p A5

[Excerpts] Suspicion, rumor and endless speculation thrive in a city where the government keeps a tight control on the daily news. [passage omitted]

But residents say the government is adept at collecting its own information. They suspect many of the friendly English-speaking cyclo drivers and hotel bellboys are government informants.

The staff at the newly-opened luxury Hotel Cambodiana were hand-picked from a list of 2,000 supplied by the Foreign Ministry, the hotel manager said.

State-controlled media inadvertently fuel a sense of paranoia. [passage omitted]

Som Kim Suor, PRACHEACHON editor-in-chief, said the role of the press was to give people confidence in society.

Most foreign reporting on the peace process was bad and was aimed at destabilizing society, she said.

"They [the BBC and VOA] announce news to frighten the people in the country. They are pro-Khmer resistance," she said.

"This is just a kind of sabotage to this country. People think our currency is worthless. Prices of goods go up. Our people are suffering because of this sort of news."

Som Kim Suor said she had received many letters from people inquiring about the United Nations peace plan for Cambodia and whether it is necessary to have the UN take over certain government ministries before free elections.

"We replied that it's not true, it's what the West said."

Cambodia's media are nevertheless freer now than they were under Sihanouk's rule in the 1960s, according to journalist and politician Khieu Kanarith.

He was sacked as editor of the KAMPUCHEA weekly magazine in a crackdown on liberals in June after he criticized the government one time too many.

"You can only criticize a general mistake, a general negative trend. You can't name the person," he said.

"But under Sihanouk, if you criticized society you would be seen as someone who wanted to sabotage Sihanouk, a communist, a rightist," he said.

Agreement With PNG Covers Border Security

91SE0045A Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 3 Nov 90
pp 1, 16

[Text] Jakarta (KOMPAS)—Papua New Guinea (PNG) Defense Minister Benais Sabumei is confident that ties between Indonesia and PNG will be closer in the future, especially now that provisions for a security committee have been included in the Basic Agreement on Indonesia-PNG Border Arrangements.

Unlike previous Joint Border Committee (JBC) meetings, the ninth meeting, which was held at Yogyakarta from 29 to 31 October, included direct and open discussions of security issues.

The defense minister said this in Jakarta on Thursday [1 November] in an interview with KOMPAS just before returning to PNG. He added that the creation of a security committee will foster better cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries, because they will be able to discuss border problems directly and seek ways to solve them.

Benais Sabumei, who was accompanied by PNG Ambassador to Indonesia Sebulon Kutu, said he was very happy that security issues, which have always hindered improvement of relations between the two countries, can now be resolved. Moreover, he hoped that Indonesian border relations with PNG can be developed to become like Indonesian ties with Malaysia.

Hot Pursuit

Sabumei said a resolution is being sought for the "hot pursuit" (i.e., pursuit across national borders) problem, which has always been an obstacle to better cooperation in managing security along the border.

The two countries agreed to improve their cooperation in safeguarding security along the border. This means that Indonesia will inform PNG of any military operations that it intends to conduct in Indonesian territory against the terrorists who call themselves the Free Papua Organization (OPM).

By such information, the possibility of PNG misunderstanding of these military operations can be prevented. In fact, PNG forces can help by capturing terrorists who

enter PNG territory. (In the past, PNG often felt that Indonesian military operations threatened PNG security.)

Sabumei denied charges that PNG protects OPM terrorists. He said he can understand the Indonesian viewpoint but stated that, on the other hand, Indonesia needs to understand the true situation. The official PNG policy is not to protect the OPM terrorists, but because PNG has no forces in the border area the terrorists can freely hide in villages in PNG territory.

Normally, Sabumei continued, when Indonesia conducts an operation, PNG drives the OPM terrorists back to Indonesian territory; but by the time this is done, the Indonesian forces have left the area. "It needs to be remembered that the border is dense forest and thus is not easy to reach," he added.

He hopes that with the future establishment of posts along the entire border, the problem can be fully resolved. In this way, after being informed of plans for Indonesian military operations, PNG will be able to pursue OPM terrorists who enter PNG territory.

It was agreed in the Ninth JBC Meeting that 10 posts will be set up along the border, which extends more than 800 kilometers. The posts will serve as gateways for people who cross from one country to the other, particularly those who live along the border.

Volunteer Work

The PNG defense minister said further that there is good cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries. Over the last 13 years, 12 PNG officers have attended the SESKOAD [Army Staff and Command School] in Bandung. Two others attended SESKOAL [Navy Staff and Command School]. "That is probably enough for now, since we need the officers to handle domestic problems, including the crushing of uprisings," he stated.

He added that he will encourage the study of each other's languages so that they can communicate easily, particularly in the performance of duties along the border.

He said that in the near future PNG intends to invite ABRI [Indonesian Armed Forces] officers to conduct volunteer work in PNG villages along the border. In this way, residents on both sides of the border will no longer look on ABRI officers as enemies.

U.S. Project Noted in Anti-Opium Seminar

91SE0032E Vientiane PASASON in Lao 20 Oct 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Training for the Administration Cadres of the Countryside and Mountain Area Development Project Completed"]

[Text] The training for cadres in administering the project to develop the countryside and mountain areas was completed on 17 October. The training began on 8 October and was held at the club of the Nam Ngum hydroelectric dam. The training was conducted under the heading: "Eliminating the cultivation of opium and encouraging substitution crops". More than 20 cadres took part in the training including representatives of Lao Project 89/550, Lao Project 88/024, and the Lao-American Project for Houa Phan Province and Xieng Khouang Province.

The goal of the training was to raise the level of knowledge and increase the capabilities of the cadres for administering this development project, for suppressing drugs and for developing the countryside and the mountain areas in all respects. The training also concerned the standards for administration and inspection.

U.S.-Supplied Radio Gear Installed

91SE0032D Vientiane PASASON in Lao 8 Oct 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Lao-American Project To Develop the Countryside Installs Long-Range Radios"]

[Text] At the end of September the Lao-American project to develop the countryside installed long-range radios in three locations: at the Ministry of Agriculture, in Vieng Thong District, and in Houa Meuang District. This was done so that there could be communications between the central authority for the project and the various local units affiliated with the project. Technicians from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications were contracted to install the radios.

The long-range radios provided were from Motorola (Motorola). The project brought in a total of four units valued at \$60,000. Each unit had a 125 watt transmitter and was powered by a 12 volt battery; each could transmit 600 km and could last over five years. At present three units have been installed. The fourth unit is expected to be installed in Son District in the future.

Security Aspects of Khammouan-SRV Border

91SE0032F Vientiane PASASON in Lao 5 Oct 90 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Khammouan Province and Houang Bing Agree To Inspect the Border Markers Which Were Destroyed"]

[Text] According to local news, during September the border committees from Khammouan Province in Laos, and Kwang Bing Province in the SRV, met to sign a

memorandum concerning inspecting and replacing the destroyed border markers along their common border. This will begin soon.

The memorandum was signed during the visit to Kwang Bing Province of the border committee of Khammouan Province. The Lao side was led by Mr. Khampon Thongsavat, the head of the border committee of Khammouan Province, and the Vietnamese side was led by Lieutenant Colonel Fambarat, the deputy head of the public security service headquarters of Kwang Bing Province; these leaders signed the memorandum. At the meeting they not only exchanged views and were unified about inspecting and replacing the destroyed boundary markers, but also exchanged information about problems along their common border such as keeping the peace and suppressing the opportunists who were disrupting the peace of the people living along this border. They also discussed the problem of travel between the two provinces and how to assure that it was orderly in the future.

Use of Foreign Funds Seen as Inefficient

91SE0032C Vientiane PASASON in Lao 25 Oct 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Use of Foreign Aid in Luang Prabang Is Still Not Effective"]

[Text] There was a meeting of the administrative committee of Luang Prabang Province held to draw lessons which ended on 22 October. It concerned the use of the aid funds received from friendly countries and international organizations for protecting the environment in past years. The meeting found that the funds were still not used as efficiently as they should be.

The meeting, which was attended by Mr. Kham-ouan Bouppha, the deputy minister of Agriculture and Forestry, together with more than 20 cadres who were involved, evaluated the situation as follows: the projects funded by this aid, the small-scale projects to develop the countryside, the experimental projects to end slash and burn agriculture which were joint projects of Laos and Sweden, and the projects to protect the environment, have encountered many difficulties and have proceeded slowly and inefficiently. There were many things which had been done well, but some aspects were still weak. The use of international assistance had not met the real needs. The responsible cadres did not have the creativity to use these funds effectively. This was demonstrated by the environmental organization which has an urgent problem to take care of with regard to dry field rice and rice fields [in hilly areas]. Some villages were still continuing their slash and burn agriculture, and many families were starving. This situation occurred because of the carelessness of the cadres in all the organizations involved and the lack of coordination between the sections doing the actual work. That is why the projects were behind schedule.

Border District's Cambodia Ties

91SE0032A Vientiane PASASON in Lao 23 Oct 90 p 3

[Report by Sovat: "Activities of the Public Security Service Headquarters of Khong District"]

[Excerpts] Khong District is one of ten districts affiliated with Champassak Province. [passage omitted] It is divided up into 16 areas and contains 131 villages. There are 16 villages which border Cambodia for a distance of more than 10 km. [passage omitted]

Khong District has encountered difficulties in many areas, for example communications, transportation, and distribution have not expanded as much as they should; the people are mostly on distant, isolated islands; and the enemy has been disrupting the peace.

Second Lieutenant Boualian of the committee for the Khong District Police Headquarters told me that public security activities in this district were difficult and disordered, but because of their persistence they had been able to achieve their goals in some areas. [passage omitted]

On the border they proceeded according to the treaty between Siangteng [Stung Treng] Province and Champassak Province which specified the rules for entry and exit and the three inspection stations. In Khong District they proceeded according to the treaty between Thala [Phum Talas] District and Khong District which specified inspection stations at two points: at Hang Khon and at Veun Kham.

In their work inspecting traffic entering and exiting, they inspected 12 vehicles of all types and one foreign vehicle. They collected fines of 2,085,000 kip from persons violating the rules. [passage omitted]

In any case the Public Security Service Headquarters of Khong District still worked at only a basic level.

For this reason the committee for the district public security headquarters must continue to reorganize according to the new work plan. In addition it will send a number of cadres and combatants to study at the province level in order to raise their proficiency and education another step.

Xe Set Hydropower Dam Progress Seen

91SE0032B Vientiane PASASON in Lao 22 Oct 90 p 1

[Excerpts] Construction of the Xe Set hydroelectric dam in Saravane Province, which began in January 1989, is now 78.97 percent complete.

Comrade Sisouvan Souvannaphasi, the head of the construction unit for the dam, told KHAOSAN PATHET LAO reporters that this dam, which will be able to generate 181 billion kilowatt hours per year, differs from the Nam Ngum hydroelectric dam in Vientiane [Province]. [passage omitted]

The boring for the [penstock] under the mountain is thought to be 100 percent complete. This dam has two small generators and three large generators capable of producing a total of 45 megawatts. It is estimated that the construction will be finished in June 1991.

Mahathir Condemns South African Apartheid

*91SE0040B Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 3 Nov 90 p 1*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 2 Nov—Malaysia will continue its support for the struggle of South Africa's black people until the country's apartheid policy is completely abolished, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said.

The prime minister said the government will continue to play a role in opposing apartheid in every international forum, whether in the Commonwealth or the United Nations.

Malaysia will also ask other countries to do everything possible to make the South African Government end its apartheid policy.

"We realize that some feel South Africa is doing enough and that economic and trade sanctions can therefore be terminated.

"Although South Africa's position has changed because of international pressures, we feel that the changes are still not enough and that sanctions must continue until all colored peoples in South Africa are free," he stated.

The prime minister made this statement while speaking at a giant rally held this afternoon at the National Stadium to hail the official visit of South African black leader Dr. Nelson Mandela.

While saying that he is aware of the many obstacles to the resolution of the South African problem, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said there are similarities between Malaysia and South Africa, especially their multiracial societies.

"Although there are differences of opinion among the races in Malaysia, the people of this country have lived in prosperity and security, except for the incidents of 1969," the prime minister stated.

"The effect of this situation is a high standard of living for the people of this country. The same conditions can exist in South Africa if the apartheid system is abolished."

The prime minister said this objective is achievable, because Dr. Mandela is not a racial leader who seeks to eliminate the white South African government but one who wants the same standards for all the country's people.

"Although many pressures, including 27 years in prison, have been brought to bear on him, his zeal has not waned since his release. He retains his conviction that people of all skin colors in his country should be treated fairly.

"He is not antiwhite but is a person who believes that white people can live peacefully with people whose skins are black, brown, or yellow," the prime minister said.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said that Malaysia supports the struggle of black South Africans, because democracy can exist in that country only if all of its people are given fair treatment.

Samy Vellu's Problems Described

*91SE0041C Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 5 Nov 90 p 4*

[Article by Hassan Mohd. Noor: "Loss of Two Executive Council Seats a Blow to Samy Vellu"]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—The loss of two state executive council (EXCO) seats previously allocated for the MIC [Malaysian Indian Congress] in Johor and Kedah is a heavy blow to the party and particularly to Datuk Sri Samy Vellu.

The decisions of Johor and Kedah to drop the MIC representatives raises the question of whether the reason for the decisions was the MIC's poor performance in the general election or intentional "sabotage" by certain persons.

Furthermore, the issue of deputy minister posts for the MIC remains unresolved.

Prior to the election, the MIC had four EXCO seats, namely in Kedah, Selangor, Johor, and Negeri Sembilan. The MIC very much hoped that quotas in all these states would be retained; it even had its candidates ready.

When the Johor government was formed, however, the names of MIC representatives were dropped. Datuk Sri Samy's reaction was that disgruntled people in the party had a role in eliminating MIC representatives.

Johor Chief Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin denied, however, that the status of the EXCO seats had been sabotaged.

Johor had two MIC seats in the State Legislature, namely Tenggara and Pasir Gudang, but former MIC EXCO member V. Arumugam was dropped from the last election race.

The MIC was then shocked again by the announcement yesterday of the list of Kedah EXCO members. Kedah MIC Chairman Datuk Dr. S. Subramaniam (State Legislature member from Kulim) had been dropped. He previously held the welfare and health portfolio.

Datuk Dr. S. Subramaniam was the MIC's only representative in Kedah, having been appointed to the EXCO after the 1986 general election.

At one time, the MIC had an allocation of EXCO seats in Perak and Pulau Pinang but lost both of them when MIC candidates lost in the 1969 and 1986 elections.

The absence of MIC representatives in Johor and Kedah raises questions among members of the party, the more so because of their amazement that the two deputy minister slots allocated to the MIC are still empty.

If these issues are not resolved, or if Datuk Samy Vellu does not give an adequate explanation, they are expected to heat up the 38th MIC General Assembly, which is scheduled for 15 December.

The MIC has been able to retain two EXCO seats: the one in Negeri Sembilan held by Datuk M. Muthu Palaniappan and the one in Selangor, where T.M. Thurai replaces Datuk M. Mahalingam, who is now the member of Parliament from Kapar.

Several speculations have arisen about the situation in the MIC as it relates to the EXCO and deputy minister posts.

Some people say that the MIC failed to get more Indian votes because the Indian community is divided over the expulsion of Pandithan and because of the defeats of Datuk S. Subramaniam and Datuk K. Pathmanaban in the last general election.

Datuk Sri Samy Vellu claims, however, that 82 percent of the Indian community voted for the BN [National Front] and that Pandithan received only 10 percent of the vote. But Pandithan claims that he received 55 to 60 percent of the Indian vote.

According to Pandithan, if all he received was 10 percent of the Indian community vote, all the candidates of his new party would have lost their deposits and the MIC would have gained a big victory without any dependence on Malay votes.

Whatever supposition is made, however, the MIC General Assembly needs to be given an explanation of several issues, including the following:

First, why did Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir not announce the names of two deputy ministers from the MIC when he announced the list of cabinet members? The two names had been presented to the prime minister two days before he made the announcement.

Second, how much truth is in the speculation that the prime minister wants Datuk Subramaniam in the government and is prepared to add another Parliament seat if Datuk Subramaniam can be retained as deputy minister.

Third, how could the MIC lose the two EXCO seats in Kedah and Johor?

This next General Assembly will be made even more heated by struggles for deputy president, the three vice presidents, and new central committee posts.

Datuk Sri Samy has a candidate ready for the deputy presidency and is relieved that his enemy Datuk Subramaniam, an incumbent, announced his resignation before the nomination date.

Datuk Subramaniam has not submitted an official letter, but Datuk Sri Samy considered his announcement

through the press enough and therefore did not invite him to attend the recent Central Committee meeting.

Mahathir Makes No Endorsement for UMNO Vice Presidency

91SE0040C Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay 4 Nov 90 p 6

[Article by Chamil Wariya]

[Text] UMNO [United Malays National Organization] President Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad is not sponsoring anyone in the party's vice presidential election at the end of this month.

He said yesterday at Alor Setar that "anyone may run for the three UMNO vice presidential posts, but I will not back any of them, not even the three current vice presidents." This is a very clear signal to UMNO divisions, who are soon to meet to choose candidates for the various party posts, that Dr. Mahathir has no intention of interfering in decisions on who is to fill the three important positions.

Dr. Mahathir apparently wants the election to be an open one this time.

Anyone who feels he is capable of being a vice president may run, and if he wins it will be through his own strength and not because of dependence on Dr. Mahathir's power as party president.

Dr. Mahathir does not want to give an advantage to any candidate, although deep in his heart he may have his own preferences.

It may be, however, that he is reluctant to list his preferences because he would not want to be disappointed if the delegations should reject his candidates.

The most important reason for Dr. Mahathir's abstaining on this vice presidential election is that he wants to leave the decision to the delegations themselves so that they will wisely use the power allocated to them by the party's constitution.

It also may be that Dr. Mahathir expects this vice presidential election to be intense and knows someone will use his name in the campaign if he says nothing.

Because this has happened in the past, Dr. Mahathir does not want people to abuse his name and therefore declared his position early.

In this way, no one can try to win by using his name.

If he should so choose, however, Dr. Mahathir actually could give indications as to his choices for the vice presidential posts.

He is in a very influential position and could have an influence on who is elected or not elected.

Whatever Dr. Mahathir, as party president, wants is almost certain to be granted by the delegations.

Furthermore, the three vice presidential posts need to be filled with UMNO leaders who can work as a team with Dr. Mahathir and his deputy, Ghafar Baba.

Thus, if Dr. Mahathir were to state his preferences plainly, no one would need to feel offended.

In fact, some UMNO members hope that Dr. Mahathir will give some indication as to his preferences for vice presidential candidates so that the divisions can be comfortable in making nominations in their conferences and subsequently in casting their votes in the general assembly.

There are some who feel their jobs would be easier if the party president would give some indication as to his own choices.

It is certain, however, that not everyone wants indications from Dr. Mahathir. Some divisions do not want to compromise their power to nominate their own candidates for vice president. They do not like to be influenced by anyone, including the party president himself.

They feel that if Dr. Mahathir wants to decide everything, there is no use in granting power to the divisions to nominate and elect vice presidents and members of the Supreme Council. Power to make decisions should simply be handed over to the president. That would be the end of the matter.

In order to enable the delegations to avoid frustrating the wishes of the president, Dr. Mahathir could, if he so desired, choose one of two kinds of indications.

He could do it in writing, as the late Tun Abdul Razak (then UMNO president) did when he named Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Ghafar Baba, and Dr. Mahathir himself as his choices in the UMNO vice presidential election in 1975.

Although some people were not pleased with what Tun Razak did, his request was granted.

It could also be merely implied (or whispered), as was the case when Datuk Musa Hitam ran against Tengku Razaleigh for the UMNO deputy president post in 1981.

However, he perhaps realizes that his expression of support in the election of the deputy president left a negative impression and met with disapproval, thus risking division and creation of camps within the party. This time, Dr. Mahathir decided to leave the election of vice presidents to the UMNO delegations themselves.

His decision means that UMNO people (including the three current vice presidents) who aspire to the vice presidency cannot claim that they are running as "Dr. Mahathir's candidate" or because of "Dr. Mahathir's sponsorship."

Labor Organization Admitted to Advisory Council

*9ISE0039C Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN
in Malay 6 Nov 90 p 13*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 5 Nov—CUEPACS [Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services] has agreed to the membership of a Malaysian Labor Organization (MLO) representative on the National Labor Advisory Council (NLAC), according to CUEPACS President Mohamad Abas.

He said that for the welfare and interests of workers CUEPACS will not hinder the effort made by the government and other NLAC members to have the MLO represented on the council.

The CUEPACS council made this decision unanimously in a 4-hour meeting held here yesterday.

"The addition of an MLO representative will not hurt the status of members or the size of their membership in the NLAC, which is a tripartite group—labor, management, and government—for discussion of labor issues," he told reporters here today.

On 10 September, Minister of Human Resources Datuk Lim Ah Lek, who is also chairman of the NLAC, announced the government's decision to include the MLO in the council and to amend the NLAC constitution accordingly. Up to now, workers have been represented on the council by CUEPACS and the Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC).

The MTUC, which has 500,000 members and is the largest labor organization, opposes the MLO's membership in the NLAC, claiming that the MLO should prove the size of its membership before being admitted to the council.

Mohamad Abas said he recently received a letter from the MTUC urging CUEPACS to discuss the matter.

"The CUEPACS council agreed that the meeting's decision yesterday will be our position in the talks. CUEPACS remains in favor of MLO membership in the NLAC," he asserted.

Mohamad Abas said the CUEPACS council fully supports the government's plan to amend the 1959 Labor Union Act to permit labor unions in statutory bodies to join CUEPACS.

"The question as to whether there are unions in statutory bodies which want to join CUEPACS has not arisen, because they will have the freedom to choose. What CUEPACS welcomes is the government's action to amend the Labor Union Act," he said.

The government will amend section 27(3)(b) of the act in order to eliminate provisions that prevent membership in CUEPACS by unions and associations in statutory bodies and local governments. The objective is to give an opportunity to these unions to unite in a single body.

This step is opposed, however, by the labor unions of statutory bodies, whose objections were voiced by the National Cooperative Council (MBK) of the Statutory Body Labor Office.

Central Bank Transactions Stabilize Ringgit

*91SE0039B Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 6 Nov 90 p 2*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 5 Nov (BERNAMA)—The purpose of the Central Bank's Malaysian ringgit transactions in London is not profit but the stabilization of the ringgit, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the Central Bank made transactions to protect the Malaysian ringgit after suffering losses caused by revaluation and devaluation of foreign currencies.

"We are now stabilizing our currency. If other countries do it, it is always right. They have now formed a cartel of banks. We are trying to protect our currency," he told reporters after delivering the keynote speech at the 17th Advertising Congress, now being held here.

The prime minister said, "Up to now, we have lost a lot of money. When they revalue their currencies, such as the yen, we lose a lot of money, because we borrow yen. If they devalue their currencies, we also lose.

"What's wrong, then, with action to protect our interests? Why can they protect their own interests and we cannot? I don't understand," he added.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir made these statements in response to reports in the British press that the Central Bank's aggressive profit-seeking action following Britain's joining the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) could hurt diplomatic relations between Britain and Malaysia.

According to the report, the Central Bank's action was what prompted London banks to form a cartel that will be effective on the foreign exchange market, a step now being investigated by the British Fair Trade Office.

The report said that after Britain's entry into the ERM, the Central Bank found that sterling had soared in value against the dollar and on 21 September liquidated its position. Several banks, including British settlement banks, that held pounds sterling were caught with big losses.

Sumitomo Opens Electronics Plant at Shah Alam

*91SE0039A Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 6 Nov 90 p 25*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 5 Nov (BERNAMA)—Japan's Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd., through its fully owned subsidiary M-SMM Electronics Co. Ltd., will inaugurate its second electronics plant outside Japan at Shah Alam on Thursday [8 November].

Mutsuo Tomono, president of M-SMM Electronics, said in a statement here today that "Malaysian political and economic stability and the government's policy on foreign investment make this country the best choice" for investment.

"Satisfactory tax initiatives, a good infrastructure, and skilled labor will make these operations successful here," he said. The other overseas Sumitomo Metal Electronics plant is in Singapore.

The M-SMM Electronics president said the plant, in which 30 million ringgit have been invested, will be inaugurated by Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz.

The plant has a work force of 130, made up of both Malaysian and Japanese personnel, and fully uses modern technology and automatic equipment to guarantee that its operations move smoothly.

The plant began operations in July 90 and has a capacity to produce 30 million pieces of integrated circuits, 100 million pieces of "discreter" [as published] components, and 7 million pieces of solder plating monthly.

In 1992, the company expects to double its output to 100 million pieces of integrated circuits, 200 million pieces of "discreter" components, and 15 million pieces of solder plating.

Sales are expected to total 10 million ringgit in the first year and to rise to 60 million ringgit by 1992. In order to handle the expansion, investments in the plant will rise by 20 to 50 million ringgit in the same period of time.

Tomono said that most of the first components produced will be exported to Singapore in July of this year [as published], and the company will endeavor to enter markets in the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, and the United States.

Sumitomo Metal, a well-known producer of nonferrous metals, has diversified its operations by involvement in mining, manufacture of metal assemblies, electronics, chemicals, engineering, and construction.

DAP Allegedly Tries to Recruit Gerakan Members

*91SE0041A Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 6 Nov 90 p 14*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 5 Nov—Gerakan President Datuk Sri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik today acknowledged that DAP [Democratic Action Party] has attempted to lure several Gerakan members of the Pulau Pinang State Legislature.

He was confident, however, that DAP would not be successful.

On the contrary, he stated, what may happen is that DAP members themselves will join Gerakan.

Datuk Sri Dr. Lim said this when asked to comment on rumors that one or two Gerakan members of the Pulau Pinang State Legislature intend to switch to DAP.

"As far as I know, no Gerakan member has done that.

"If there is a rumor about people jumping parties, it is probably that DAP members are joining Gerakan," he said after opening a meeting here today.

During the last several days, rumors have been on the increase that several members of Gerakan and possibly UMNO [United Malays National, Organization], too, will join the opposition.

If this happens, DAP, which has 14 seats in the 33-seat Pulau Pinang State Legislature, will be able to topple the National Front government, which has only 19 seats.

Commenting further on the rumors, the Gerakan president said, "There is a great possibility that DAP members of the Pulau Pinang State Legislature will join Gerakan, because several of the DAP candidates who won in the general election are new members of DAP."

He added that although DAP may try to enlist Gerakan people, he is confident that the effort will not be successful.

He said that such rumors are being circulated in Pulau Pinang because Lim Sit Siang is ambitious to be chief minister.

In connection with developments in Sabah, Datuk Sri Dr. Lim said the opposition party alliance, Gagasan Rakyat [People's Concept], needs to take a joint position in order to confront the entrance of Peninsular parties into Sabah.

"Gagasan Rakyat must declare its position on whether or not it supports PBS [Sabah United Party] in opposing UMNO's entrance into Sabah.

"As an alliance, it should have a single position," he stated.

According to Datuk Sri Dr. Lim, if Gagasan Rakyat takes the same position as PBS, Lim Kit Siang does not need to be in Pulau Pinang.

"If Pairin feels that Sabah is only for Sabahans, why does Lim Kit Siang need to be in Pulau Pinang, since he comes from Malacca?"

From Pulau Pinang: Gerakan here says rumors that some of its members in the State Legislature are going to join DAP are an effort by political elements who want to hurt the state's stability.

Datuk Tan Ghim Hwa, chairman of Pulau Pinang Gerakan, was quoted by BERNAMA as saying that these reports are being disseminated by political elements who want to create turmoil in Pulau Pinang.

Such reports should not be believed because they could cause anxiety among the people, he said when asked to comment on the rumors that some Gerakan members of the State Legislature plan to join DAP.

"The recent statement of party president Datuk Lim Keng Yaik, in which he clearly declared that Gerakan will not cooperate with DAP or accept any invitation from DAP, directly refutes the rumors," he said.

Meanwhile, a DAP spokesman said the party has never received any such request and does not know anything about charges that there are Gerakan members who "suddenly" want to join DAP.

He said the widely disseminated rumors are merely a political manipulation by "certain people" and that DAP has nothing to do with them.

A police spokesman said that members of the public found disseminating rumors can be arrested and charged under the Sedition Act.

Police will arrest anyone spreading rumors that could cause controversy and threaten national security, he said.

African National Congress To Receive Assistance

*91SE0040A Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 3 Nov 90 p 2*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 2 Nov—Malaysia has agreed to give financial and technical help to the African National Congress (ANC) as an evidence of the government's support for the ANC's struggle to end the apartheid policy of the Pretoria regime.

Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad gave this assurance to ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela in a meeting this morning at the Prime Minister's Department.

At a press briefing after the meeting, Datuk Abdul Majid Mohamad, deputy chief secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that Nelson Mandela welcomed the aid.

The prime minister told Mandela that the amount of money and details of technical assistance will be decided in discussions at the cabinet level.

Malaysia will give technical help in the areas of its expertise. Housing and training are sectors that have been identified.

Datuk Majid said Mandela was quite interested in Malaysia's offer of technical aid related to housing. Mandela stated that there is a pressing need for housing for South Africa's black people.

"We need to study the matter and plan a program before making a decision," Datuk Majid said.

With regard to training, he said that Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir told Mandela that Malaysia is prepared to provide any training needed, particularly in technical skills.

"He made this offer because Malaysia has experience in these areas and has given the same types of help to several other African countries," he said.

The prime minister will welcome visits by ANC officials for further discussion of assistance.

According to Datuk Majid, in providing help to the ANC, Malaysia needs to make exceptions in several aspects of policy. The ANC is a political party, and foreign aid is normally handled between governments.

In the discussion, which lasted more than an hour, Mandela described the actual situation, particularly related to yesterday's disturbances in Johannesburg in which 16 people were killed.

Mandela said this latest brutality was actually the work of South African security forces and not of black people.

Mandela said the security forces did this because they do not want the ANC to become more influential and because they want to defeat efforts toward talks between South African President F.W. De Klerk and the ANC.

Mandela explained to the prime minister that South African authorities have not taken enough action to stop criminal acts by members of the security forces.

Editorial Deplores Actions of Sabah United Party

*91SE0040D Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 8 Nov 90 p 6*

[Editorial: "Uncivilized Acts"]

[Text] The Sabah State Government led by the Sabah United Party (PBS) has again acted in an uncivilized and lawless way by dismissing Finance Ministry Chief Secretary Tan Sri Zain Azraai from the chairmanship of the Sabah Forestry Industry (SFI) and firing Treasury representative C. Rajandram from his post as a director.

This shameful act is one of a series of demonstrations of undisguised vengefulness and hatred and came but a few days after the Sabah leadership had issued a statement that was arrogant, proud, provocative, and confrontational toward the Central Government.

It was strange and unnecessary for the dismissals to have been made contrary to regulations. The people who were fired were not informed of the general meeting of the company on 23 October. Chief Minister Joseph Pairin's assumption of the chairmanship himself and the appointment of a different Treasury representative, Cheong Men Seng, displayed the kind of prestige, self-respect, dignity, and trustworthiness that the Sabah leaders possess.

Of course, it is the state government's right to reorganize and make transfers, since SFI is completely under the control of the state. Nevertheless, to hold a special meeting without informing the chairman and members of the board of directors is a commandeering of power.

Was the letter sent following the special meeting the only authority that the Sabah State Government used for its unique action and dismissal of the chairman and a director? This clearly shows that the PBS government wants to eliminate everything that smacks of the Federation.

The Sabah State Government's position is not only destroying the national integration that has been cultivated for so long but is also launching an open confrontation by escalating its anti-Central Government campaign.

This campaign of hatred against the Central Government and the simultaneous inflaming of Sabah public feeling, which provoked such ridicule of high Federal Government officials at the ministry chief secretary level, illustrate the true character of Sabah leaders.

Leaders of dignity, self-respect, and character function with calmness, openness, and cool-headedness in order to be an example to the people and do not act out of emotion or self-destructive anger.

The Central Government does not lose anything by the Sabah State Government's behavior. The one who ultimately loses is the Sabah Government itself for having played with fire to satisfy its unbounded political vengefulness. With relations troubled by actions like this, what is left?

If the Sabah State Government feels it is able to stand alone in this federal government system without the cooperation and support of the Central Government, it is mistaken. Under this system, power is divided between the states and the Central Government.

This arrogance will not hurt the Central Government at all. Furthermore, this action was unwise, because it was marked by prejudice and rancor and ultimately will create tense relations between the state and the Central Government.

UMNO Youth Chief Declines To Run

*91SE0041B Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA
in Malay 7 Nov 90 p 2*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 6 Nov—UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Youth President Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak announced today that he will not run for one of the UMNO vice presidential posts, which increasingly are objects of struggle as the UMNO General Assembly at the end of this month approaches.

He was originally expected to resign his Youth presidency post to run for vice president, but after talking with Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad he decided not to run.

UTUSAN has learned that Datuk Sri Najib met today with the prime minister, who is also president of UMNO, to talk about his status as Youth president and that he was assured he will be retained as president.

The new UMNO constitution gives power to the party president to appoint the presidents and vice presidents of UMNO Youth and UMNO Women.

Datuk Sri Najib was unwilling to describe his status fully but said Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad will soon be making an announcement about the UMNO Youth presidency and vice presidency.

Datuk Sri Najib's announcement, which was issued in a press conference at the Ministry of Defense this afternoon, ended speculation that he might try his luck at capturing one of the three vice presidential posts.

His decision also makes the race more open because he was said to be a serious candidate who could give stiff competition to other contestants and who also would have the support of UMNO Youth.

So far, seven people have stated their intent to run. They include two incumbents, namely Terengganu Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and former Minister of Defense Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, both of whom have confirmed that they intend to run for reelection.

Minister of Education Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim will also seek to retain his vice presidential position, which he has held for three years. He will make an official announcement about the matter on Thursday [8 November] or Friday [9 November].

Besides the incumbents, the people intending to run are Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar, Malacca Chief Minister Tan Sri Rahim Tamby Chik, Johor Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Muhyiddin Yassin, and Selangor Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Muhammad Haji Mohd. Taib.

It is reported that Perak Chief Minister Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib and Minister of Agriculture Datuk Sri Sanusi Junid, who ran in previous elections, will run again.

In a new development, Selangor UMNO this afternoon officially confirmed that Tan Sri Muhammad will run and that all 14 UMNO divisions in the state will support the chief minister for a vice presidential post.

A statement by the state UMNO secretary did not mention the status of Datuk Abu Hassan, who had said his race was supported by Selangor UMNO.

Datuk Sri Najib said in announcing his decision not to run that his action was based on his belief that UMNO Youth still needs his leadership.

Datuk Sri Najib, who was appointed Youth president after UMNO was declared illegal, said that all members of the UMNO Youth Executive Committee want him to continue his leadership. He also said that he has received support from the presidents of the Youth divisions.

"I thank the divisions who indicated their support for me for the vice presidency," he said.

He also announced that the Youth vice president will be named by the UMNO president prior to the General Assembly.

The vice presidency is now held by Hashim Safin from Kelantan, but it has been learned that he is too old for reappointment.

Editorial on Aquino's Leadership*91SE0043B Cebu City SUN STAR in English 24 Oct 90
pp 7, 18*

[Editorial by Godofredo M. Roperos: "Cory Demonstrates Now How Our Common Problems May Be Solved"]

[Text] Suddenly, President Aquino is acting like the way a president should. She has now extended invitation to the opposition to join the meeting of the National Security Council in Malacanang on Thursday. This is a move she should have done a couple of years back. The president of a nation does not really carry his or her politics to the office. Once a person occupies the office of president, he should immediately put away his political color. He becomes the leader of all the people in the country he leads. The things he does or does not do become subject of scrutiny by the people, and the problems he faces he should not face alone, for they are as much problems of the everyone as they are his own.

But President Cory did not cotton to this concept for a long time. Until recently, she had kept the opposition in the country at bay, as if she was only president of those who show acquiescence to her policies and programs, but not to those who dissent or do not agree with her. It was a behavior that invited not only more dissent and criticisms, but also divisiveness. To our mind, it took a devastating earthquake, a Middle East crisis, and a giant sized domestic conflict to make her realize how important it is to draw everyone to help solve the problems common to all who live in the country, and whose lives are neatly tied up with the fortunes and survival of the land they are born in.

Now, perhaps, it is time all of us should come to terms with the realities of our present condition. Those who are directly affected by the present economic crisis—the labor groups, the consumers, the teachers, the farm workers, the low income people, and the businessmen—should not move to fight for their interests alone on their own, but should show common cause with everyone. After all, any problem like the ones we have now affect all of us. By her recent actuation, President Aquino has finally shown she is also capable of being truly a leader of her country. It is time we should respond to the change in the presidential tact.

For one, she has now realized people who disagree with her or her policies are not necessarily her enemies, or are after her own destruction. Many weeks ago, she had accepted the ideas of people who gathered together to discuss national problems and find solutions to them which they could recommend to her. In earlier times, she would have denounced the move as being calculated to embarrass her, or to belittle her capability to manage the affairs of the country. She looked and behaved then like a woman leader suffering from a first degree inferiority complex. But it looks now as if she has overcome this feeling and has matured in office.

And for this, we believe those who are planning to go out in the streets to demonstrate against her administration, to hold a nationwide "welga" to force government to solve their problems, should desist in the meantime from doing so, and come instead to the negotiating table. To force the issue at this moment knowing that the government now, much as it would like to help them solve their problems or assuage their suffering, is not really in a position to do so, is like killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. After all, the suffering they experience now is not true to them alone. We are all in this together, and we all rise or sink with our country. The president has demonstrated a new approach to her presidency. She has become rather sensitive to the pinings of the Filipinos.

It is time, perhaps that we should find out how long she can sustain this new tact on her part. Let us find out whether working together, and agreeing to suffer together, we would be able to improve the present national condition under her leadership and guidance. If there is nothing else we could see in her administration at the moment that could revive our faith in her competence as president, then let it be our curiosity regarding her sudden change in administrative style. If only for this, we are willing to go along with the enlivened approaches to the national problems she has shown. At least now, she has changed her erstwhile unilateral outlook of the national problems, and allowed those willing to put in their money's worth to help out in whatever way they can.

We are sure only good could come from this change in her attitude. Her aides and advisers cannot really be said to have a monopoly of ideas. The fact that she has invited Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile and his counterpart in the House, Bicol congressman Salvador Escudero III, to attend the National Security Council meeting, is proof enough for this change of heart. We hope this would be the start of a new thinking in the national leadership. And the people around her should follow suit by ceasing to create more divisive moves or make aggravating pronouncements against her dissenters and detractors. Of course, we also expect the rest of the country to follow suit with a reconciliatory mood of their own.

Signature Campaign by Congressmen To Support Aquino*91SE0037D Cebu City SUN STAR in English
19 Oct 90 pp 7, 21*

[Article by Godofredo M. Roperos]

[Text] So it has been announced. Purported diehard supporters and sympathizers of President Cory are going out to solicit no less than five million signatures on her behalf to show that the Filipino electorate are still behind her. Ten congressmen are reportedly spearheading the movement, and are going to start work this weekend in their respective districts, no doubt. The announcement

yesterday, we believe, was intended to create a bandwagon effect, expecting other legislators and political leaders who hope to demonstrate to the incumbent President their undying loyalty to jump in. It is a move that might be good or bad for her.

One of the legislators behind the signature campaign said they "are calling for support for President Aquino because of her unblemished public record and her concern for the poor." The purpose of the campaign is to generate a counteraction or a response, according to the movers, to the drive of opposition leaders to amass signatures for a call to the President to resign. The opposition move is reportedly headed by former senator Eva Estrada Kalaw. It appears now the political exercise set for 1992 has started early, and at a time when the country is facing a formidable crisis, and when political issues should be our least concern.

We think the congressmen behind the move are ill-advised regarding the timing of their move, unless they are out to sabotage President Cory's presidential plans, whatever these are. For one, the prime movers of the project should have let the Kalaw challenge pass. It is possible it would hardly get any serious attention from the people who are presently deeply concerned with their economic survival. For another, it shows the Cory supporters cannot really countenance dissent and criticism, which are hallmarks of a true democracy. Little do they realize what they are trying to do might instead create a backlash.

Indeed, as one of the movers openly admitted, their declaration of support for President Aquino also involves their call for her to run for reelection in 1992. If anything, this move is rather premature, and ill-timed. Being done at a time when the masses of our people are all worked up over the rising prices of commodities, the impending new moves by oil companies for another increase in prices of oil products, and the struggle for survival, they could hardly be disturbed with an abortive call to participate in a partisan political action which is intended for an election still two years away. Could there be other motives behind this?

Initially, the number of signatures they have set as target is rather too high: five million. What if they cannot get the number this weekend and over a certain period of time, say, two months? Would their failure to do so not be taken as the people's repudiation of Cory's leadership this early? And even if they will be able to get the number, and likewise the opposition also succeeds in getting their target, what would it mean? It cannot really be interpreted as President Cory's vote of confidence because we will never have a way of knowing that the people who signed for the pro-Cory listing did not also sign for the anti-Cory one. Or the one who signed for her did not do so out of "respect" for the ones asking them to.

If you ask us, this game the 10 congressmen are reportedly trying to play for the President is full of pitfalls and

traps. What happens, for instance, if the anti-Cory listers are able to overshoot their target, and are able to equal or even exceed the number the 10 legislators have set for their target? Aren't the 10 legislators unconsciously trying to do a straw vote on Cory's standing with the Filipino electorate now?

Consider this: a reported poll results made in Metro Manila recently showed the President almost hitting rock bottom in her popularity. Are the legislators not doing this just to be sure she will not anymore contemplate on running for reelection? One of the congressmen has admitted to being a Liberal Party member, and has said he cleared his present move with LP head Sen. Jovito Salonga who did not object. This gentleman announced that even if he is LP, he will support President Cory if she runs for reelection. If...but isn't what he and his nine other friends are doing now is precisely to find out whether she should or should not run for reelection?

We hope the President will not fall for this obvious trap to her political future. If at all, whether the enlistment will succeed or not in getting the five million targeted signatures, the whole project would most likely be politically counterproductive. If they do not succeed, she would suffer politically; if they do, it would only invite her potential presidential rivals to work even harder at cutting her down—they still have all of two years to do it. Indeed, if she allows this project to go through, either way her goose would be cooked just the same.

Committee Says Bill Contrary to Rights

*91SE0036B Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog
30 Oct 90 p 1*

[Text] The House of Representatives declared its reservations to the government's proposal (bill) to openly prohibit the May First Movement (KMU), if it could be verified that this group proliferated violence during last week's National Strike.

Yesterday, Representative Hermogenes Concepcion (LDP, Nueva Ecija) head of the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments, stated that the lower chamber must carefully study the above-mentioned bill because it might be contrary to certain rights and privileges of the people, as stated in the constitution.

Concepcion further added that to prohibit an organization runs contrary to the constitutional rights of an individual who participates in a group and exercises the freedom to express his own views and to assemble.

Concepcion proposed to the government that it ascertain whether it is the policy of the KMU to foment violence in order to overthrow the government. This sounds reasonable; hence, the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) is banned.

Concepcion, a former Supreme Court justice, also stated that an organization cannot be prohibited if it uses calm,

quiet, democratic means, in accordance with the law, to petition for changes in the government.

According to him, the articles incorporated into the KMU's (policy-guidelines) are in accordance with the law.

"The KMU was formed in order to safeguard the welfare of the workers," said Concepcion.

He also added that the government can do nothing except to arrest and punish the people who started the trouble in the National Strike. "The government must punish some individuals, but not the entire KMU organization," he continued.

National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto stated that, first of all, the government can ban the KMU if it can be proved that the KMU started the trouble in the aforementioned strike.

However, he stipulated that it would indeed be extremely difficult to prohibit the KMU if more democracy is to reign in the nation.

The law of the land states that the government can ban any organization that foments trouble against it.

The armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) insist that the KMU has had connections with the CPP for a long time.

Government Defrauded by 3.7 Billion Pesos

*9ISE0036C Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog
1 Nov 90 p 1*

[Text] The government has lost 3.7 billion pesos due to irregular transactions in some of its departments, agencies, and offices. This was announced by the Congressional Planning and Budget Office (CPBO) of the House of Representatives in connection with the report by the Commission on Audit (COA) for the year 1989.

Considered as irregularities are the overstatement of purchases, labor programs and other concomitant expenses, cash advances not paid, unimportant travel expenses and honoraria, suspicious expenses, overpricing, uncollected payments, missing funds, fraudulent allowances and other financial shortcomings.

The entire amount could be doubled or tripled, since other transactions have the necessary documents for changing the value of collections and assets, and still there are other cases which have not yet been audited.

Speaker of the House Ramon Mitra, Jr. asked Eufemio Domingo, head of COA, to help furnish the missing statistical data on finances in order to enable the House to possess a sound basis for limiting the amounts lost in the proposed budget plan for 1992.

Excluded from the data listed in the report of the COA are data on the office of the President and on Congress.

Money that must still be collected under the auspices of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System amounts to 1.2 billion pesos, and its missing funds amount to 934.10 million pesos.

The government loss in the Department of Tourism (DOT) amounts to 1.1 billion pesos. This department lost 667.1 million pesos from uncollected funds.

It has been noted that the National Power Corporation (Napocor) has a 322.5 million pesos deficit due to changes in the physical inventory count and balances of the books.

Napocor denied the accusation that the delivery of supplies and materials is the root cause of the 1.5 million pesos loss. Collections valued at 437,860.69 pesos have not yet been remitted by Napocor.

Some of the statistical data from CPBO are as follows:

Unliquidated Cash Advances: Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), 247.7 million pesos; MWSS (contractors), 91.2 pesos; and Department of National Defense (DND), 59.00 pesos.

Overstatement of Purchases, Programs of Work/Expense: Department of Science and Technology (DOST), 100.00 million pesos; Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology, 3.7 pesos; and Napocor, 11.7 pesos.

Unnecessary Travel Expenses/Honoraria: Science Educational Institute, 40.9 million pesos; Philippine Air Force (PAF), 30.5 million pesos.

Paper Reports on National Strike

Shootings, Slayings Prior to Strike, Served as Warning

*9ISE0017A Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog
25 Oct 90 p 1*

[Text] The burning of three buses and the killing of the drivers' leader, Oscar Lazaro, was a bad warning prior to the National Strike. This was how the biggest strike under the banner of the militant group of workers was conducted yesterday: burning buses and killing laborers.

The New People's Army (NPA), through the Alex Boncayo Brigade, (ABB) claimed responsibility for the burning of the buses in Makati, Pasig, and Quezon City; however, the deadly slaying of Lazaro was the work of rebellious communists.

The primary cause (of all this) was the objection to the National Strike by the leader of the National Association of Privately-Owned Passenger Vehicles and the Drivers' Association.

Regarding yesterday's [24 October] violence, it can be said that the accusation by an assistant chief of the

Armed Forces of the Philippines, Major General Rodolfo Biazon, that what was achieved was that the "strike was against the good of the nation, and not for the good of the nation" is true.

This statement is based on the fact that so many were badly affected by the powerful National Strike: the workers who lost their means of livelihood when the public transportation buses they depended on for their income were burned, and the common, ordinary drivers and conductors who got killed and who were the sole breadwinners of their families.

It is highly possible that it never occurred to the communist leaders that the buses they burned were insured. In fact, the bus owners would even be glad if the radical strikers would burn the poorly-functioning buses all over the Manila Metropolitan area.

The National Strike is justified, especially if one takes into account the fact that the motive of the participant-strikers is for the good of all. Nevertheless, it is not necessary to have such a brutal, violent revenge in order to smash the plans of the Aquino regime. The NPA has systematically sponsored armed movements for two decades, but nothing has really been accomplished, whether or not the rebels have claimed responsibility for these movements, because the people are already fed up with too much violence. The grievances of different groups, like The Union for the Progress of Socialist Thought and Action, that the government cares for big corporations rather than the workers, are true. However, the nation's problems cannot be resolved by intensifying hard feelings.

The workers have long been petitioning the government to stop paying the foreign debts in order to be able to subsidize foreign oil and other basic necessities needed for the nation's recovery. It has also been recommended that the salaries of the workers be raised because the current minimum can nowhere keep up with the highly inflated prices of the most basic necessities and needs of the people.

However, the aristocratic class of government leaders has turned a deaf ear to the small, ordinary, common people.

In fact, Mrs. Aquino and her "yellow"-colored cronies are pleased with the divisions within the laborers' sectors. The government's policy is simple: divide in order to rule. And indeed, it is effective, since the general public is not doing anything regarding the tens of thousands of anomalies and the lack of trust and confidence which is widespread.

Those who truly want to free the nation of all this should change or adopt new tactics. Excellent examples were set by the people in Eastern Europe, particularly in East Germany and the Soviet Union, in forcing the government to grant what the majority wants.

They held rallies every Monday; hence, the participants in the protests against the government increased considerably. In the said movement, the closed walls of the dictator crumbled; thus, the people's energies are now focused on how to facilitate progress in the economy.

But if the militant groups continue to inflict violence, then they can deservedly make alliances with the rebellious soldiers who do nothing but use terrorism. On the other hand, they can never expect to have the support of the people. The different sectors of society are united against the slayings and the concomitant violence.

Strike Supported by Some Senators, Congressmen

*91SE0017B Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO in Tagalog
25 Oct 90 p 1*

[Text] Two senators and six congressmen joined the National Strike yesterday, and they stated that they are a part of the democratic sector whose purpose is to achieve a fast economic recovery.

The lawmakers who participated in the strike are Senators Joseph Estrada and Wigberto Tanada, and Representatives Jose Zubiri, Jr from Bukidnon, Nikki Coseteng from Quezon City, Bonifacio Gillego from Sorsogon, and Venancio Garduce from Samar.

The above-mentioned groups of lawmakers are members of the so-called "Parliamentarian Caucus."

Zubiri headed the strikers' march which started in Alabang, Coseteng, and Gillego did the same from Quezon City, and Rodriguez did, too, from Pampanga. They were all met by a group, headed by the senators, in front of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) on Taft Avenue.

According to their manifesto, the lawmakers made it clear that the general public has the right to use democratic actions in order to focus on their economic needs.

The lawmakers declared, "We're calling on the administration to confront the issues presented by the different organizations, and to alleviate the current hardships and sufferings of the people."

They further added that, since they have been elected by the people, their association is prepared to act against any violent attempt by the volatile groups.

The lawmakers stated that the government must resolve the nation's crises, since it is only the government which has sufficient resources in terms of funds, power, and the authority to either hear or reject petitions and requests; in addition, it also has the power to grant permits to strike or to prevent or stop strikes.

Commentary on Violence During Strike

91SE0017C Manila *DIYARYO FILIPINO* in Tagalog
25 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] There is no doubt that the general public supported and sided with the struggle of the National Strike yesterday in order to dramatize their forceful protest against the refusal of the administration to grant the additional P38-a-day wage.

The general populace united with the striking drivers who have been hit very badly by the new increases in oil prices because the populace are also the heads of families and they understand that people like them are the worst affected when the prices of basic necessities go up.

And before the launching of the National Strike yesterday, the general public requested that the strike be a peaceful one.

However, the violence that followed, the fear, the threats, and the slaying of Oscar Lazaro, president of the "Pasang Masda," and the subsequent burning of the two passenger buses should have been avoided or prevented.

Contrary to their hopes, the general public was disappointed with the strikers. It has been reported that more than 15 passenger buses had been burned by the strikers and that four people had been killed as a result of violence.

Why was it necessary to burn and kill?

Was it in order to show that the National Strike is powerful?

It is unnecessary to become violent in clarifying grievances against the policy of a government that always sides with multinational and opportunistic capitalists.

It is also unnecessary to shed blood in order to unify the nation in forcing the present government to grant the fair demands of the oppressed workers.

What shall we do with victory—even if, for instance, the government grants the additional P38-a-day wage and the price of oil goes down—if by so doing, the lives of our suffering countrymen are sacrificed?

In this case, the strikers themselves are the same as the military men whom they condemn and also the same as the government officials that have no regard for the lives of their own countrymen as long as they achieve their goals.

By cutting off life and by destroying the personal property of the private citizens, the strikers have shown that they are not different from others who hunger for power and who would do anything for their own benefit.

There must be a lot of precautions taken in undertaking a National Strike if violence is prevalent in such actions; otherwise, the trust and sympathy of the silent citizens who put their hopes in the strikers' actions and voices in

order to put forward complaints about the nation's hardships and sufferings will be lost.

Editorial on Reasons Behind National Strike

91SE0036A Manila *DIYARYO FILIPINO* in Tagalog
26 Oct 90 p 3

[Editorial by Randy S. David: "Opinion of National Strike"]

[Text] "It's not a National Strike, it's a strike of the Leftists against the nation," declared Secretary Fidel Ramos, in his condemnation of the extensive protest that paralyzed Greater Manila this past Wednesday. The highly respected Secretary of National Defense wanted to make it appear that the strike didn't have the full support of the entire population, that there were no valid reasons for the grievances behind the strike, and that it was just a bad strategy, the purpose of which was a communist attempt to seize power.

In a way, I still haven't heard of any mass movement that hasn't been labeled as pro-communist. All the persistent efforts on behalf of the poor have been characterized as pro-communist. Mr. Ramos's statements are just typical of the kind of utterances that (other) leaders of our present society would also repeat.

Likewise, we all know that simply labeling something, whatever it is, in no way influences the underlying reasons behind it. Communist or not, it is necessary to respond to the reasons behind the strike if the Aquino government doesn't want to appear as a government only of the foreigners and of the rich oligarchy.

The petition for the 38 pesos across-the-board increase is perceived as unreasonable because it will simply result in high inflation and price increases. Does it mean that the burden of bearing with the inflation will be passed on to the workers? It has been said that it is necessary to raise the price of gasoline again if we want a continuing supply of it. Does it mean to say that the laborers will quietly accept, without a word of complaint, the hard blows of skyrocketing prices?

Of all the things that the National Strike has accomplished, this last one, most probably, has the simplest message: If it is necessary to suffer, then all must suffer. Should those who are starving be starved even more?

The issues on which the Aquino government must render decisions are clear. Whose shoulders should bear the burden of increasing prices? The corporations, by decreasing their own earnings? Or the laborers, by decreasing the food supplies available to their families?

In the hope of solving the problems, the Aquino government has been forced to delay the gasoline price increase. However, this can only be done if the subsidized body of the Oil Price Stabilization Fund (OPSE) can financially support it. Its funds have run dry. In reality, it has been said that its debts to the oil companies have already

reached 9 billion pesos. Thus, it is indeed necessary to raise the oil price once again.

According to the leaders of the National Strike, having another gas price increase is very untimely. The most likely effect of this is absolutely widespread hardship among the vast number of people. On the other hand, if the government would only decrease the taxes on oil products, and if the companies that make these products would only decrease their prices, then, it is believed, there would be no more need to increase the oil prices.

Taxes are an extremely sensitive issue to the government, for they are its life-blood. Currently, the biggest problem for the administration is the budget deficit. Can you imagine what would happen if the taxes imposed on the importation and sale of oil would be further lowered? According to the technocrats of the Aquino government, the current problem is not the lowering of taxes, but rather increasing the efficiency of tax collection. How could we afford the government expenses, if the taxes coming from oil would be eliminated?

This part of the government's arguments is the weakest. It is not common knowledge that almost half of the government's annual budget goes only toward paying off the foreign debt. The Aquino government has not made it clear to the public why its first priority must be paying off the foreign debt rather than improving the lives of the Filipinos, especially after a big calamity like the killer earthquake.

The Filipinos are accustomed to hardships and suffering, and they are prepared to listen, if and when the government calls for austerity. However, calls of this nature have meaning and significance to the people only if they see that the burden of enduring the hardships and the suffering is shared fairly and equally. People are irritated to see millions of pesos spent on bullet-proofing the office of the President.

In normal times, it might be superfluous to debate issues like this. However, we are now in a time of crises and calamities. The calls for sacrifice are credible only if they come from a leadership without the stigma of luxury or waste, extravagance or squandering. It is too bad, but we can no longer say this of the Aquino government.

Paper Reports on Negros' Decline in Insurgency

91SE0037A Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English
1 Nov 90 p 13

[Text] Bacolod City—Col. Jose Ma. Solquillo was recently awarded a military merit medal and a plaque of appreciation for his achievement in reversing the tide of insurgency in Negros with the surrender of 11,450 rebels while he was head of Task Force North.

Solquillo said Task Force North was able to reduce the strength of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army by 59 percent in Negros since last year.

He also said the firearms exchange with the rebels has tripled in favor of the government.

Solquillo, who also headed the 301st Brigade for 14 months and a half, was given the Military Merit Medal by Brig. Gen. Raymundo Jarque, Army 3rd Infantry Division and Negros Island commander, in turnover rites at the headquarters of the 301st Brigade in Murcia.

Solquillo has been assigned as chief of staff of the Army.

Under his leadership, the 301st Brigade launched four major operations in Negros that resulted in 221 encounters, 200 of which were government-initiated. The brigade accounted for 215 rebels killed in action, the capture of 68, and the recovery of 94 high-powered firearms.

"His full knowledge of counter-insurgency enabled him to neutralize areas controlled by the communist-terrorist in his area of responsibility," the citation said.

It said Solquillo had succeeded in neutralizing 11,450 communist terrorists, 185 party members, 2,702 subversive mass activists, and 8,164 organized masses and won back 70 barangays.

He also upgraded the combat efficiency and effectiveness of the unit by vigorously implementing strict adherence in the maintenance of offensive capability to counter and neutralize the enemy's armed component and political infrastructure, the citation added.

Right Wing Threat Shifted Attention From NPA

91SE0037B Cebu City SUN STAR in English
19 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] The Armed Forces could have hastened the downfall of the Communist underground movement were it not for the destabilization moves of the ultra-rightists, which drew the military's attention to the new menace.

Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, who was in Cebu City yesterday, made this statement during a command conference with top military commanders here.

The ultra-rightists' destabilization moves have also adversely affected the economy, he added.

Of the major threats to security in the country, the visiting general said the problem posed by the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in the south has already been "stabilized."

The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA), Biazon added, is also "deteriorating from a highly-principled and motivated organization to plain banditry."

"We are now seeing the beginning of the decline of the CPP-NPA," said Biazon who added that the ultra-leftists alienated themselves from the people when they blew up towers, power lines infrastructure facilities and bridges.

With the "democratization" of Eastern Europe, the CPP-NPA has also become "ideological orphans," he said.

Biazon said the secessionist problem in the south has been "stabilized" because people there are tired of the conflict which started in 1973.

"The development of institutionalized political leaders against traditional leaders is setting up an effective government structure in those areas," the AFP vice chief of staff said.

Nur Misuari, MNLF head, has lost his influence in the Middle East, he added.

The military considers the ultra-rightist problem an immediate threat and the CPP-NPA as a long-term threat.

After the command conference, Biazon talked with officers and men at the Viscom social hall and told them to always follow the chain of command as well as the Constitution.

He also talked to them about matters affecting their welfare and morale.

'Low Morale,' 'Weakening' Seen in AFP
91SE0037C Cebu City SUN STAR in English
20 Oct 90 pp 6, 18

[Article by Godofredo M. Roperos]

[Text] There is a section in the Davide Commission report about the armed forces' deteriorated cohesiveness and low morale which struck us as a definite indictment of our politicians and their use of power and influence upon people in government. While not all, but probably quite a good number, are not guilty of the charge, whether remotely or not, still the matter is something that many of us have long known but is only now being more concretely treated in a report that invites confidence because it is based on testimonies of credible witnesses.

Taking the lamentable inadequacy of our military equipment, for instance, the report cited many causes, among these, our politicians. It said some politicians avail themselves of our military's scarce resources, such as using helicopters for their sorties in the provinces, so that oftentimes, if unexpected encounters with insurgents occur, wounded personnel cannot immediately be evaluated to station hospitals for treatment. At other times, of course, military vehicles are also borrowed to satisfy the needs of certain high elective officials out in the field during recess in the legislative sessions.

But then, this is nothing but standard operating procedures followed by most if not all of our high elective officials, starting from the provincial governor to the members of the Senate. This is not to mention the

Cabinet members or the President. But then the President is the military's commander-in-chief in our national set-up, so he or she has the right to use any military equipment if he or she wants to. What we are trying to bring out here actually, is the manner and form in which our politicians interfere in the "life" of our armed forces. While we did not see the Davide report touch on this interference in detail, we find it an opportune time to recall or cite some of these.

Well, in the past, it was SOP [Standard Operating Procedure] for our politicians to have military men as body guards or security. Most of our elective officials before, and even during the Marcos martial rule had elements of the military, particularly the Philippine Constabulary, on detail to them as security instead of doing their duties as law enforcers. That is why in the past, during elections, when certain candidates cried foul and charged their opponents with fraud and terrorism, we could almost be sure at the center of it would be military men who have become "bata-bata" of reelectionist politicians.

And then, of course, to return the compliment, those among the military who have been very cooperative to the political leaders, often get their rewards in the form of recommendations or support for promotion in rank. In fact, to our mind, the propensity of our politicians to go out of their way to push the promotion of military men, and of the latter's seeking their support, especially those in the higher ranks from major to general, is one of the keys to the weakening of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines].

We recall many months ago when we happened to be in the Philippine Senate, and our visit coincided with the hearing of the Commission on Appointments. In its agenda that morning was the promotion of certain military men from colonel to brigadier or from brigadier to major general, or to positions in the staff. The session hall was filled with military top brass, some of whom were so tame before some CA [Commission on Appointments] members. No doubt they were lobbying for confirmation of their appointments!

Afterwards, whoever of the politicians helped them gain the promotion, would get not only their gratitude but also a kind of loyalty that may surface in times when needed or under certain circumstances in the future. As for instance, during the coming elections, the commander of the Visayas command or the southern command, may find his political "padrino" during his confirmation running for the Senate. He is definitely expected to help out in his campaign efforts, and even go to the extent of persuading key leaders in his area to vote for "his" candidate, no matter how subtle he might do it.

In fact, we suspect this is one reason why certain members of the CA would appear opposed to or reluctant to show immediate support for certain military men so that the matter would come to them on bended knees and become indebted. This is more particularly so, since the

CA rules provide that when a member objects to nominees being scheduled for deliberation, the name may be tabled for further study or for deliberation some other time. And the poor nominee for promotion, or for appointment to a cabinet position, in the case of non-military nominees, are helpless to do anything about it. We are not really condemning politics or politicians here per se, for we know of many politicians who seldom if at all, do these unsavory practices. But just the same, this practice is one of those that have made armed forces the way it is today: weakened, shot through with intrigues, cliques, and corruption. Who should we blame then, if not politics and politicians?

Rebel Chief Seeks Military Assistance

*91SE0043A Cotabato City MINDANAO CROSS
in English 17 Oct 90 pp 1, 8*

[Article by Samson Gogo]

[Text] A high-ranking Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] official, Muslimin Sema, has appealed to higher military authorities to take actions against their men who allow themselves to be used by certain politicians.

Sema chairs MNLF's Utara Kutawatu State Revolutionary Committee and holds the rank of brigadier-general in the MNLF.

He made his appeal following a skirmish between an MNLF group led by a Kumander Joe Hari and a combined force of paramilitary CAFGUs [Citizen's Armed Forces Geographical Units] and Army troopers from the 35th Infantry Battalion.

The skirmish took place Saturday (13 October) near the Mindanao State University (MSU) Campus in Dinaig, Maguindanao, which the MNLF considers to be within its "controlled area." Caught and killed in the crossfire was Teng Unting, a civilian.

Sema said the government forces involved in the skirmish violated the existing cessation of hostilities between the military and the MNLF. He said the CAFGUs in the fight, based in Talayan, Maguindanao, entered the area without coordinating with the MNLF.

He warned that "this kind of offensive action from some undisciplined military and paramilitary men might trigger again a war," even as he stressed that MNLF is maintaining a defensive stance despite what he considers to be provocations.

Sema accused some politicians of fueling conflict in the area to promote their vested interests. However, he did not elaborate and failed to name the said politicians.

A progress report of the 35th IB identified Kumander Joe Hari's group as having staged a hold-up near the Brar Bridge in Talayan, near the MSU campus. In the skirmish, the rebels suffered two fatalities and an undetermined number of wounded, the military report said.

Chawalit Discusses Economic, Development Policy*91SE0022A Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai
24-30 Oct 90 pp 16, 17*

[Interview with General Chawalit Yongchaiyut by KHAO PHISET Staff on 17 September; place not given]

[Text] [KHAO PHISET] What is your party's economic policy?

[Gen. Chawalit] I don't want you to think that I am an expert or specialist. People can't be many things. I am a person with definite intentions who has begun to build this. There will have to be experts to deal with other matters. But I would like to tell you how I feel. There are two main lines of economic thought, the leftist and rightist lines. The leftist line holds to equality and stresses distributing the national revenue as equally as possible. The rightist line just lets things go as they will. Those with the longest reach can grab whatever they want. But this does not mean that there is a system of privileges, because if there were, it would not be possible to carry on activities freely and efficiently. If there was a system of privileges, there would be bribery and so on. Instead of carrying on activities freely in an efficient way, this would destroy things.

The rightist line holds that if we make a large cake, with however much mass production, creating whatever degree of economic stability; that is good enough. The cake would be large enough for everyone to get a share. Or put another way, there should be jobs for everyone. People would then bargain about wages. The Buddha taught us to follow the middle way. Thus, we must follow the middle way. The pressure for mass production is dynamic. It drives all types of construction. Things have been improving for several years. Although things are just beginning to change, they are still ok. We are not talking about oil prices. Some have said a 6-7 percent [increase] is ok. Others have said 10 percent. We should talk about what should be done because this affects the country as a whole. This is a problem for all developing countries. I said that I did not want to talk like a scholar, but we have to take a stand.

Our position is that income must be distributed properly. For example, if income is distributed by building a factory in a particular area, there would be confusion. Because instead of distributing the income, that would just create more problems. One of the tenets of economic theory that adheres to the middle way is that balance in economic development must be maintained. Maintaining balance refers to adequately satisfying demand. That is, we must do the best we can. We may not achieve everything. Supply and demand is one theory. But there is another theory that says that you should build things first and divide [the income] later. I think that things must be coordinated. Some call for spending another 3 billion in order to educate the people in the area and generate greater interest.

This is a broad line. Actually, the nation's greatest problem today is the problem of poverty. In short, in carrying on development, as much attention as possible must be given to the poor. People must be sincere about this. As I said a moment ago, people may have good intentions but no knowledge. Building a plant in an area may just make things worse. For example, factories to produce tomato sauce are being built in Udon Thani and Nong Khai provinces. But instead of being 1 baht per kg, the price of tomatoes has dropped to just 70 satang [1 satang equals 0.01 baht] per kg. Instead of increasing potential, this has reduced produce prices. Besides the fact that these factories are emitting pollution, the land is being taken over. Because as more and more factories are built, there will have to be golf courses. More and more people will sell their land. All this is a matter of economic balance.

We have to understand that the phrase "industrialized agriculture" is different from the phrase "agricultural industry." Thus, what should be done? Everyone must think about these problems. I don't want to go into the details. But I think that economic development must have clear goals, not eyewash. I have talked about "economy" and "business" for a long time. Our country is not developed and so we have not kept up. Thus, at times "business has been good, but the economy has been bad." That is still true. Think about why pickup trucks are selling well even though the price of rice has dropped. Why is that? It's because people have gotten money from selling land. Today this isn't just casual prostitution, people are selling their country. This is very worrisome and dangerous. Thus, the steps taken to solve this problem are very important. If the wrong method is used, the problem could become even worse.

[KHAO PHISET] It is thought that you favor having the country become a "NAC" rather than a "NIC." Is that correct?

[Gen. Chawalit] Today, the NICs, five tigers, and eight dragons are all experiencing difficulties. The middle class is being destroyed. The nation's savings are being destroyed. The "Republic of China" has practically become a "Republic of Casino." People take off on Friday to gamble. We have to look at their mistakes and make corrections. Talking about the NIC is easy but dangerous. We have not made full use of our greatest potential. Why aren't we an agricultural super power? We must focus on industrialized agriculture. If we develop things in stages, we will succeed. But I am not referring to "basic industry," which is an important issue regardless of whether it is petrochemicals or refineries. We must not stop but push ahead, because these are basic industries of the nation. Both the civilized and uncivilized must do the same thing. Greater attention must be given to the nation's foundation, its economic infrastructure.

[KHAO PHISET] How do you view the ideas of Dr. Wiraphong Ramangkun and Mr. Amaret Sila-on, who have been appointed ministers in this sector?

[Gen. Chawalit] Both are very good, experienced men with pure intentions. But what worries me is that they are working in a system that needs to change. If they are unbending, no one will be able to take advantage of them. But if they are weak, they will be used. It's like a political party that once established never grows. And even if it does grow, it can't solve the nation's problems.

Thus, I wish them success. Everyone hopes that they will succeed. I hope that they succeed and am willing to help in any way. Take the Hopewell (the Hong Kong company that will build an elevated railroad in Bangkok) matter, for example. At present, there are financial problems. But when the public says no, there must be a resolution to do this, what can be done?

ECONOMIC

Discussion of Current Shortage of Capital

912E0013A Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG
in Vietnamese 10 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Article by Le Tien Tuyen: "Capital for Production and Business—the Real State of the Problem and Solution"]

[Text] Capital—When Is There Enough of It?

In the middle of this year, SAIGON GIAI PHONG printed an article ("Capital, Cash: Worrisome Signs Appear Again," 7 Jun 90 p 1) warning that the shortage of capital and cash is currently a major reason, which obstructs and slows down production. And since then the situation involving capital and cash for production and business seemingly has not improved. Units continue to claim they are short of capital. The municipality has proposed that the bank grant loans amounting to 350 billion dong within the allowed limits to provide additional capital to enterprises, but so far no response has been made to the proposal.

To provide production and business with sufficient capital in the coming months is a very difficult thing to do. The amount of money that the banks use for loans depends mainly on attracting savings. But after the fall in interest rates (on 19 March 1990) and mostly because of the impacts of the recent increases in the value of gold and the dollar, all banks have found that such sources of money from savings were decreasing. The Municipal Bank of Industry and Commerce, the bank that is considered number one in terms of savings surplus and operating turnover, has also sustained as much as 10 billion dong of savings withdrawals. Since the beginning of this year, although the banks wanted to increase the surplus fund in order to accommodate applications for loans to satisfy production needs, the actual increase has been only 4.5 percent over the figure at the beginning of the year. If the problem of capital is not resolved satisfactorily and promptly by 1 October, the date when the new banking regulation will take effect, production and business units will encounter greater difficulties. According to the regulation, banks will grant these units only supplementary liquid capital loans, instead of long-term capital loans as they used to do. And credit organizations cannot mobilize capital exceeding 20 times the total of their own self-supplied capital and reserve fund (article 23); credit organizations cannot grant a single customer loans exceeding 10 percent of their own self-supplied capital and reserve fund. The total capital granted as loans to 10 customers who borrow the most cannot exceed 30 percent of the total lendable debt surplus of credit organizations (article 25). Banks, where capital is supplied and conditions for units to do business are created, are considered the major friend of production and business units and, therefore, must also be bound by the conditions on mobilizing capital and granting loans.

Looking at the Real Capital Situation of Economic Units

According to data provided by the Region I State Bank, the specialized-business banks operating in the municipality have so far granted state-operated units loans amounting to 1,000 billion dong, with 700 billion at the regulated interest rate and 300 billion at agreed interest rates. Thus compared to the total debt surplus, the loans charged at agreed interest rates accounted for only 14-15 percent. The Region I State Bank also said that it could grant a few hundred billion in additional loans, but by so doing it would have to reduce the size of its reserve fund.

The above-mentioned figures indicate that the sums of money borrowed by units are not small. The total loans charged at the regulated interest rate are quite large. Banks can continue to grant loans. But why do units still claim they are short of capital? First of all, this shortage is real. At present, the self-supplied capital of precinct- and district-level state-operated economic units amounts to only 3-5 percent, with some units having not even a single dong of capital following the decision to establish themselves. The self-supplied capital at municipal units amounts to only 10-15 percent—central level units fare better with 20-40 percent. The reason for the shortage of capital is the fact that units are established but receive no capital; the sources of self-supplied capital, which used to come from price differences, are regulated by the localities and are used up. The central-level units are in a better position, and that is why they currently are operating more actively. While units are short of capital, at the same time there is the phenomenon of "capital surplus." As we surveyed just one enterprise in the municipality in the food freezing business, we found that its operations were slowed down because of a lack of capital for business but it had as much as 20 billion dong of merchandise in its warehouse. As a general estimate based on incomplete data, the quantities of goods and products stored in warehouses and being sold at a slow pace presently are valued at several hundred billion dong. That is a major reason behind the shortage of capital among economic units.

Production, business, and money circulation all encounter a current obstacle: Production is plagued by capital shortage; money has to be borrowed so that workers have work to do; but after the production process is completed, goods remain unsalable. Even though banks are willing to grant loans, they do not dare to do so because it will be difficult to recover their money. Presently more than 60 percent of the banks' loan surplus are loans that are hard to recover and overdue loans. In the second quarter of this year, the total of their debt surplus amounted to 1,000 billion dong, but receipts from loan payments amounted to only 700 billion. And the fact that banks have frozen their lending funds is a measure allowing them to make payments in due time to savings customers in the face of fluctuating prices, although they fully understand that to hold money without lending it will lead to losses.

Solution for the Capital Problem?

Production is the backbone of the economy. Why do units operate in an ineffective manner? Here we do not talk about the personal qualifications of directors, nor the competition brought about by smuggled and foreign goods. We find that only in regard to capital there are many irrational things that help to suffocate production: According to regulations, the units that have self-supplied capital must pay one percent per month in capital tax and .5 percent per month for fixed assets, and an average of 2.4 percent per month for capital borrowed at the regulated interest rate. This does not include the amounts of money that are mobilized or borrowed from outside at interest rates several times higher. Then come such items as business-license tax, taxes imposed on business, merchandise, and so on. Banks also pay a business tax of 20 percent. And finally everything is reflected in the product cost, and enterprises are the last ones to suffer! This explains why domestic goods are sold at higher prices than foreign goods!

The recent anti-inflation policy did result in reducing the speed of price sliding but has not yet affected economic growth. On the contrary production has been seriously affected. Because interest rates were raised and because the higher interest rates were kept too long, the units that borrowed capital for investment or production have not been able to recoup this capital because they were unable to sell their products. Production, circulation, and consumption are closed processes in which obstruction in one link prevents the reproduction process from starting again. The fact that the state adopts a national anti-inflation policy requires that it also adopt a national policy on production development rather than continue to maintain the half-alive-half-dead state of things as it exists today. This requires a uniform solution consisting first of all of the firm dissolution of the state-operated units that have been operating in the red and a concentration of capital and material base on the ones that have been operating effectively. We must supply more capital to the units that have recently been evaluated as effective operators. It is true that there are some units whose capital is tied up because their products remain unsold, but this is not a good reason for waiting further. We must absolutely implement the policy of protecting domestic goods and widening our market so as to release our inventories and unsold goods. Any units that are newly established must be supplied with capital and be truly financially self-ruled. These are the urgent needs today that must be satisfied in order to save our economy, which is writhing in a fit of pain.

SOCIAL

On Fighting Corruption

912E0016A Hanoi DAI DOAN KET in Vietnamese
7-13 Aug 90 pp 1, 3

[Article by Dau Quy Ha in the column "People's Forum": "Is There Any Way to Eliminate Corruption?"]

[Text] A corporation director had a 460,000-dong banquet, using public funds to pay for it.

Hundreds of directors and authorities patronized Duong Son Quan [restaurant and brothel], at each visit spending millions of dong.

A board of directors awarded itself 47 million dong while the workers had to take off work, receiving furlough pay.

In a commercial venture, an executive earned 66 million dong while three state-operated commercial units involved in this suffered losses.

A director got tens of millions of dong selling state products and, when discovered, was allowed to retire.

A state forestry director who destroyed and embezzled public property was promoted to federation deputy general director; again he embezzled and was promoted to general director, and again he embezzled and was promoted to vice minister! Today he is using 96 percent of the timber export quota for himself, even though the minister has given orders to revoke it. After such a start, there is no telling how far he'll be promoted for this bizarre "achievement."

A collective—correctly dubbed a robbing "bank"—let emerge a certain Muoi Hai who stole 125 billion dong in national property.

Another "bank" misappropriated funds of the people in the heart of the Da River. These people must leave property farmed for thousands of years, worth 48 billion dong, putting 8,000 households on the road to poverty and deprivation.

Another "bank" misappropriated 200 billion dong in state property intended for buying national reserve paddy in order to join ****, to deposit into savings to obtain the interest, to make business deals, and to shop and spend lavishly for fun.

A cement fever in which someone with economic knowledge figured out that the thieves who caused it amassed tens of billions of dong in property from the people and state [as published]. Now a nitrate fertilizer fever is emerging. How many more billions?

These are the facts the press has exposed. Surely this isn't everything.

Why has such an overly corrupt situation occurred? Holding authority or having influence is to seek ways to plunder the property of the people and the state. Plundering naturally, regarding it as a normality. The amounts plundered in each case range from tens of millions, billions, tens of billions to hundreds of billions. Are the people's and the state's funds as easily appropriated as trifles (bamboo leaves or mussel shell)? If anyone is trying to figure it out now, how much have the people earned and how much have these dishonest people stolen? The people are uneasy primarily because corruption is so widespread and so serious, driving our people

gradually down the road of poverty while those who do the plundering spend with such complete extravagance because they never had to sweat for these billions.

The DAI DOAN KET issue for 11 June 1990 recommended imprisonment without parole for those who engage in corruption but how can they be imprisoned? The Ho Chi Minh City court handed down suspended sentences to individuals who were fairly high-ranking cadres from the public security sector. They colluded with Duong Son Quan and divulged the sector's secrets, so numerous plans to conduct raids have failed. Certainly, simply holding a trial for "prostitution" would not work, but what about a trial for the "crime of collusion and divulging work secrets"? Who has ignored this crime?

The state forestry director, when found to be a thief, was saved by higher levels by being allowed to retire. We have heard somewhere that there are now some key cadres in the national reserve sector who have been saved in this manner—allowed to retire. Who is saving them?

Obviously, to punish the crooks first of all requires destroying every force protecting them. But these forces seem so formidable that no court could challenge them!

How does trying to find a second path look? This is not the path of punishment but rather the path of stopping theft to restrict them.

If all directors of state-operated installations and accountants who are state employees who earn state salaries, who perform business functions with two specific tasks (supplying goods to markets and making deposits toward the budget), can continue to complete this task, if the state would pay salaries and give awards liberally, and exceeding norms would be appropriately rewarded, then perhaps there would no longer be instances of "I reward me" that are widespread now—not just at the Quang Trung Engine Factory.

If we dispose of the directors' and chief accountants' authority to "buy expensive and sell cheap" in order to get money and awards from both ends (from the one selling expensive and the one buying cheap), then the specific installation itself will reduce losses while the amount of money lost will be shared by both the buyer and the seller.

If trade union organizations and party organizations in installations are not involved in the leadership of the foursome in order to unintentionally or intentionally assist corrupt directors and chief accountants, but rather play the role of truly inspecting and supervising in their capacity of representatives of the party and the laborer, then certainly these fellows will never dare to sell off at once tens of thousands of cubic meters of timber (stating it's a write-off of property) or bring good property to sell off (also under the guise of a write-off) in order to get money and share it to line their own pockets. This "foursome" is mostly a hiding place for thieves only. If the party organization truly represents the party and the

trade union organization truly represents the masses, actively struggling to thoroughly publicize every expenditure and earnings of the installation, surely we will avoid numerous instances of theft due to subterfuge and only then will we really protect the rights of the state and the laborer.

If the state also manages openly like that, by clearly announcing publicly via many means of mass communication (TV, radio, press, announcements, etc.) and on many occasions making the people understand and know clearly the government's good will, that the government wants to really help the farmer by buying paddy at 350 dong per kilogram, each household in the heart of the Da River which must move can receive 1.4 million dong in assistance at a clearly indicated place of disbursement, then surely there will not be one cent missing from the 200 billion dong to buy reserve paddy at the government's goodwill price and the 48 billion dong to reimburse the people in the Da River area because the people are aware of these things so they can demand them until they get them.

Without openness and to continue to deal secretly by granting favors to people in this authoritarian way is to oppose the party's line for the masses "the people know, the people discuss, the people do, the people inspect," and it is the reason for this extremely serious corruption. Is openness possible? Can the people know? The answer is clear. The only question is whether we do this truthfully or not. Could there be no one in state installations with enough qualifications to suggest a notice: "Dear farming families, beginning on... the government will buy paddy at a price of 350 dong per kilogram. The purchasing place is the granary in the locality. We respectfully invite you to come and sell," etc. If this brief, terse notice had been widely broadcast on television and radio, published in the press and publicly posted at granaries, perhaps no farmer would have refused to sell paddy to the state when the market price was only 290 dong per kilogram or even lower. Or in the heart of the Da River there could be a similar "notice." We believe that our farmers are smart enough to choose by themselves. Why has something as simple as that not been thought of by anyone? Is it because of people looking down on other people, especially ethnic minority families?

To stop instances of "Thanh Huong," "Dai Thanh," and fevers (rice, cement, nitrogen, etc.) which cause the people hundreds and thousands of billions of dong in losses (the currently widespread tontine phenomenon is a similar thing), we must manage business according to law. We must urgently enact business regulations under which we clearly prescribe the conditions of the businessman, of the property mortgaged, of registering businesses, of inspection and control, of the responsibilities of the administrative and legal agencies in execution, etc., and, in particular, there must be special measures to combat market-cornering by monopolistic organizations in the most effective way possible.

Finally, only after the above measures have been undertaken for implementation will it be possible to punish the corrupted and combat corruption effectively.

BIOGRAPHIC

Information on Personalities

91P300344

[Editorial Report] The following information on Vietnamese personalities has been extracted from Vietnamese language sources published in Hanoi, unless otherwise indicated. An asterisk indicates that this is the first known press reference to this individual functioning in this capacity.

Nguyen Thanh Binh [NGUYEENX THANH BINHF]

Member of the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Politburo; secretary of the CPV Central Committee; on 12 Sep 90 he attended a meeting held in Nghe Tinh Province to mark the 60th anniversary of the Nghe Tinh uprising. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 90 p 1)

Nguyen Ba [NGUYEENX BAS]

Member of the CPV Committee; secretary of the CPV Committee, Nghe Tinh Province; on 12 Sep 90 he gave a speech at a meeting held in his province to mark the 60th anniversary of the Nghe Tinh uprising. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 90 p 1)

Vo Thanh Binh [VOX THANH BINHF], Colonel

*Political deputy commander on the Military Command, Binh Dinh Province; his reply to a reader's letter was published in the cited source. (NHAN DAN 25 Sep 90 p 3)

Do Binh Duong [DOOX BINHF ZUWOWNG]

*Chairman of the People's Committee, Ha Bac Province; on 12 Sep 90 he welcomed CPV General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh on a visit to his province. (HANOI MOI 20 Sep 90 p 1)

Do Ngoc Duong [DOOX NGOCJ ZUWOWNG]

SRV ambassador to Afghanistan; recently his speech on the SRV National Day was broadcasted on Afghan radio in Kabul. (HANOI MOI 7 Sep 90 p 4)

Le Van Dy [LEE VAWN ZYX] aka Le Van Di

*First vice minister of heavy industry; *chairman of the Vietnam-(North) Korea Friendship Association; on 10 Sep 90 he headed a delegation to North Korea. (HANOI MOI 21 Sep 90 p 4)

Pham Van Dang [PHAMJ VAWN DANGS]

*Head of the Former Resistance Fighters Club in Ho Chi Minh City; on 23 Sep 90 he made a speech at a meeting

held in Ho Chi Minh City to mark the 45th anniversary of the Nam Bo resistance. (NHAN DAN 25 Sep 90 pp 1, 4)

Le Quang Dao [LEE QUANG DAOJ]

Chairman of the national Assembly; vice chairman of the State Council; recently he attended an award ceremony held on the occasion of the SRV's 45th National Day. (HANOI MOI 5 Sep 90 p 1)

Dinh Phu Dinh [DINH PHUS DINHJ]

Vice minister of commerce; on 20-21 Sep 90 he co-chaired a conference on Vietnam-Japan economic relations. (HANOI MOI 20 Sep 90 p 1)

Lo Van Inh [LOF VAWN INH]

Chairman of the People's Committee, Lai Chau Province; on 12 Sep 90 he welcomed State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong on a visit to Lai Chau Province. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 90 p 1)

Ngo Dinh Loan [NGOO DINHF LOAN]

*Chairman of the People's Council; deputy secretary of the CPV Committee, Ha Bac Province; on 30 Aug 90 he attended the inauguration ceremony for the glass factory Dap Cau in Ha Bac. (HANOI MOI 31 Aug 90 p 1)

Ngo Xuan Loc [NGOO XUAAN LOOCJ]

Alternate member of the CPV Central Committee; *minister of construction; on 12 Sep 90 he accompanied State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong on a visit to Lai Chau Province. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 90 p 1)

Nguyen Dinh Loc [NGUYEENX DINHF LOOCJ]

Deputy head of the Office of the National Assembly and the State Council; (Pho chu nhiem Van Phong Quoc Hoi va Hoi Dong Nha Nuoc); on 28 Aug 90 he attended an award ceremony for the Soviet ambassador to Vietnam. (HANOI MOI 30 Aug 90 p 1)

Dao Van Loi [DAOJ VAWN LOWIJ], *Colonel

*Commander of Division 9, Cuu Long Corps [Binh Doan]; he signed an announcement on the 25th founding anniversary of his division. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 29 Aug 90 p 4)

Le Ngoc Luong [LEE NGOCJ LUWOWNGJ]

*Acting head of the Central Cryptographic Committee [Ban Co Yeu Trung Uong]; on 12 Sep 90 he made a speech at a ceremony marking the 45th founding anniversary of the cryptographic sector. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 90 pp 1, 4)

Hoang Nhu Ly [HOANGF NHUW LYS]

*SRV counselor in Beijing; on 19 Sep 90 he welcomed an SRV sports delegation to Beijing. (HANOI MOI 21 Sep 90 p 1)

Nong Duc Manh [NOONG DUWCS MANHJ]

Member of the CPV Central Committee; head of the CPV Committee's Nationalities Department; on 12 Sep 90 he accompanied State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong on a visit to Lai Chau Province. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 90 p 1)

Tran Xuan Nhi [TRAANF XUAAN NHIX]

Vice minister of education; recently he attended the school opening ceremony at Thang Long School in Hanoi. (HANOI MOI 6 Sep 90 p 1)

Ho Ngoc Nhung [HAF NGOCJ NHUWOWNGF]

*Head of the Office of the Council of Ministers; he signed a document from the Office of the Council of Ministers which was published in the cited source. (DAI DOAN KET 14-23 Aug 90 p 3)

Nguyen Niem [NGUYEENX NIEEMJ]

Member of the CPV Central Committee; secretary of the CPV Committee, Lai Chau Province; on 12 Sep 90 he welcomed State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong on a visit to Lai Chau Province. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 90 p 1)

Do Phuong [DOOX PHUWOWNG]

*Acting director general of the Vietnam Press Agency; on 15 Sep 90 he made a speech at a ceremony marking the 45th founding anniversary of VNA. (NHAN DAN 15 Sep 90 p 1)

Nguyen Huy Quat [NGUYEENX HUY QUATS]

*Chairman of the People's Committee, Lang Son Province; on 18 Sep 90 he bade farewell to General Vo Nguyen Giap who was going to Beijing. (HANOI MOI 19 Sep 90 p 1)

Nguyen Thanh Quat [NGUYEENX THANH QUAATS]

Member of the CPV Central Committee; secretary of the CPV Committee, Ha Bac Province; recently he welcomed CPV General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh on a visit to Ha Bac Province. (HANOI MOI 20 Sep 90 p 1)

Ho Xuan Son [HOOF XUAAN SOWN]

Editor in chief of HANOI MOI daily; on 5 Sep 90 he attended a meeting held by his newspaper in Hanoi to give awards to Vietnamese journalists. (HANOI MOI 6 Sep 90 p 1)

Bui Van Thanh [BUIF VAWN THANH]

*SRV ambassador to the People's Republic of Benin; on 14 Sep 90 he presented his credentials to the president of Benin. (NHAN DAN 26 Sep 90 p 4)

La Thang [LA THAWNG]

Member of the CPV Central Committee; secretary of the CPV Committee, Lang Son Province; on 18 Sep 90 he attended a farewell ceremony for General Vo Nguyen Giap who was going to Beijing. (HANOI MOI 19 Sep 90 p 1)

Mai Chi Tho [MAI CHIS THOJ], Senior General

Member of the CPV Politburo; minister of the interior; on 12 Sep 90 he attended a ceremony marking the 45th founding anniversary of the cryptographic sector. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 90 pp 1, 4)

Nguyen Quoc Thuoc [NGUYEENX QUOOCS THUWOWCS], Lieutenant General

Member of the CPV Central Committee; commander of the 4th MR; on 12 Sep 90 he attended a meeting in Nghe Tinh Province to mark the 60th anniversary of the Nghe Tinh uprising. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 90 p 1)

Dao Tung [DAOF TUNGF], deceased

Director general and editor in chief of VNA; deputy of the 8th National Assembly; vice chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee; vice chairman of the Vietnam-Cambodia Friendship Association; member of the Vietnam-UNESCO committee; former member of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front; vice chairman and general secretary of the Vietnam Journalists Association; vice chairman of the International Journalists Association; he was born on 25 Oct 1925 in Bac Giang city, Ha Bac Province; his real name was Do Trung Thanh; he died on 15 Sep 90 at the Vietnam-Soviet Friendship Hospital after a serious illness. (NHAN DAN 17 Sep 90 p 1)

Sung A Vinh [SUNGF A VINH]

*Chairman of the People's Council, Lai Chau Province; on 12 Sep 90 he welcomed State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong on a visit to Lai Chau Province. (NHAN DAN 13 Sep 90 p 1)

Tran Thien Tu [TRAANF THIEENJ TUWS]

Head of the Ho Chi Minh City Foreign Economic Relations Department; he gave a speech at a recent meeting of the city's People's Council. (Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG 29 Aug 90 p 1)

Truong Tung [TRUWOWNG TUNGF]

Vice chairman of the People's Committee, Hanoi Municipality; on 2 Sep 90 he was present at a reception held in Hanoi to mark the SRV's 45th National Day. (HANOI MOI 4 Sep 90 p 1)

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